■ Business / B1

Gas, diesel prices to rise this week

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Election death toll rises to 141

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US solons shocked by new abuse photos

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NBA playoffs: Kings, Heat level series

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Common-sense marketing tips to boost sales

Tanong ng Bayan / A22

Sino ang maghahari sa bagong Kongreso?

ANG PAGBABALIK NG RAINBOW COALITION?

PNP to int'l observers: First time always a shock

GANYAN TALAGA 'PAG FIRST TIME!

By Christian V. Esguerra

THE FIRST time is always some kind of a jolt, no big deal.

Foreign observers of the May 10 elections expressed nothing less than

PNP/ A17

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Pimentel cautions FPJ: Don't cry fraud just yet

By Blanche S. Rivera and Gil Cabacungan Jr.

KOALISYON ng Nagkakaisang Pilipino standard-bearer Fernando Poe Jr. has been cautioned by a member of his senatorial slate against crying fraud just yet, with a warning that it would make him look "foolish."

Sen. Aquilino Pimentel, who is seeking re-

PIMENTEL/ A5

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph

Friday, May 14, 2004 ★★★ 64 pages / 7 sections / vol. 19 / no. 156 P18

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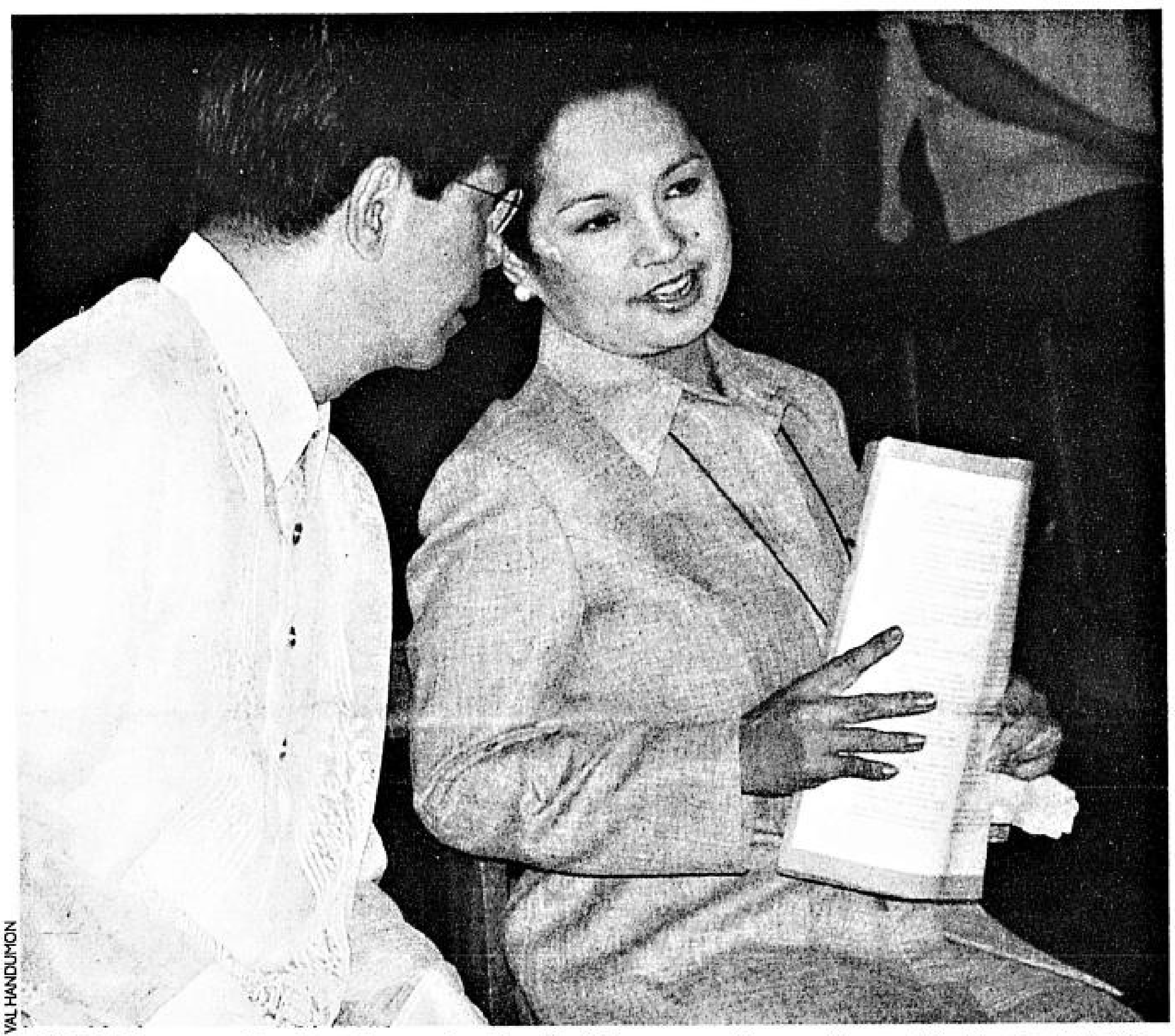
Bishop to GMA foes: Show proof of fraud



VAL HANDUMON

THE BODY language of President Macapagal and Sen. Panfilo Lacson even then—on the eve of election day during the Unity Mass at San Agustin Church—spoke of things to come. Now the Palace is singing praises to Lacson for his call for sobriety amid the political opposition chorus of protests against alleged cheating by the Macapagal administration.

Poe, Villanueva to give evidence on Sunday

By Bernadette A. Parco, Blanche S. Rivera and Christine O. Avendaño

CEBU CITY—Cebu Archbishop Ricardo Cardinal Vidal yesterday confirmed that he had met with representatives of presidential candidates Fernando Poe Jr. and Bro. Eddie Villanueva, but said it would be "premature" to make a judgment on whether massive fraud had marked the May 10 elections.

Vidal said that at their meeting on Wednesday afternoon, Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay and Luis Sison, representatives of Poe and Villanueva, respectively, told him about the massive fraud allegedly perpetrated by the administration and asked him to do something about it.

He said he told them to provide documented proof of the alleged fraud.

"After listening to what they had to say ... I told them that for me it seems to be premature to make a judgment now on the May 10 electoral process," the cardinal said at a news conference. "We have to wait until everything is completed. We will collect all the documents they might have, and these could be a source for us to make a fair judgment of what had happened."

Sison and Binay reportedly promised to submit the documents within one week.

According to Sison, Bangon Pilipinas approached Vidal because he was one of three archbishops at the forefront of "Operation Tutok," which the HOPE coalition launched earlier this month with the help of volunteer parishioners to guard the elections.

The cardinal called the news conference to dispel reports that he had formed an alliance with Poe and Villanueva following his meeting with their representatives at his residence.

Vidal said the meeting had not been pre-arranged. He said he had just come from Dumanjug town in Cebu when Binay and Sison arrived.

He also said he did not even know who they

BISHOP/ A17

ELEKSYON 2004

QUICK COUNT (PARTIAL-UNOFFICIAL)

NAMFREL 22,782 out of 216,382 precincts
As of 9 p.m., May 13, 2004

	PRESIDENT	VOTES
1	Macapagal-Arroyo, Gloria	1,274,165
2	Poe, Fernando Jr. K.	1,178,273
3	Lacson, Panfilo M.	370,558
4	Villanueva, Eduardo C.	194,282
5	Roco, Raul S.	162,461
	VICE PRESIDENT	
1	De Castro, Noli L.	1,596,957
2	Legarda, Loren B.	1,326,818
3	Aquino, Herminio S.	106,635
4	Pajo, Rodolfo T.	3,369
	SENATORS	
1	Roxas, Mar Manuel II A.	1,997,197
2	Revilla, "Bong" Ramon Jr. B.	1,600,393
3	Pimentel, Aquilino, Jr. Q.	1,581,733
4	Madrigal, Jamby A.S.	1,369,803
5	Gordon, Richard J.	1,360,828
6	Cayetano, Pia Juliana S.	1,329,141
7	Lim, Alfredo S.	1,278,437
8	Santiago, Miriam D.	1,276,487
9	Estrada, Jinggoy E.	1,188,291
10	Biazon, Rodolfo G.	1,148,142
11	Barbers, Robert Z.	1,134,010
12	Enrile, Juan P.	1,108,095
13	Lapid, Manuel M.	1,036,420
14	Maceda, Ernesto M.	1,035,544
15	Osmeña, John Henry R.	1,030,319
16	Mercado, Orlando S.	924,692
17	Jaworski, Robert S.	691,256
18	Yasay, Perfecto Jr.	690,714
19	Tatad, Francisco S.	664,043
20	Anson-Roa, Ma.Elisa Boots C.	626,377

GMA now leads Poe in Namfrel quick count

By Cynthia D. Balana

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo wrested the lead back from actor Fernando Poe Jr. in the presidential race yesterday afternoon as election results from her bailiwicks and overseas poured in on the third day of the quick count by the National Citizens Movement for Free Elections.

Based on the 9 p.m. Namfrel tabulations, the President had 1,274,165 votes, giving her a lead of 95,892 votes over Poe, who had 1,178,273.

The votes came from 22,782 precincts, or 10.53 percent of the 216,382 precincts nationwide.

GMA NOW/ A1

GMA-Ping reconciliation most likely

By Norman Bordadora and Gil Cabacungan Jr.

SEN. PANFILO Lacson has accepted President Macapagal-Arroyo's offer of a post-election reconciliation. The invitation was made during the Mass for honest, orderly and peaceful elections at the San Agustin Church in Intramuros on the eve of the May 10 polls.

Lacson said Ms Macapagal had asked him if they could reconcile after the elections, to which he answered, "Yes, ma'am. Definitely."

"It's about time we have genuine reconciliation," Lacson told reporters at a news conference at his Makati campaign headquarters yesterday.

"The offer was made inside a church. I had no reason to doubt her.... she even had communion," he added.

GMA-LACSON/ A18

Gov't awaits advice on Iraq pullout

By Juliet Labog-Javellana and Jerome Aning

DESPITE escalating violence in Iraq, President Macapagal-Arroyo has not decided whether to evacuate thousands of Filipino workers there even as her erroneous report on the number of Filipino fatalities after a mortar attack has cast doubts on how much her administration knows about the conditions in that country.

Presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye told a media briefing yesterday that Malacañang was still waiting for the recommendation of the inter-agency Iraq Team whether to pull out some 4,000 Filipinos working there.

"We're waiting for the recommendation. As of this morning, the Iraq Team was assessing the situation and the President, you will note in her earlier statement, has said that if really necessary and called for, the evacuation will be ordered," Bunye said.

Radio station dzMM reported that 80 percent of Filipino workers in Camp Anaconda had resigned en masse and had requested to be moved out of Iraq due to security concerns.

Last month, about 50 OFWs at

GOV'T/ A22

Exit polls a mystery to Filipinos

By Ruben Alabastro
Desk Editor

WHEN MERCY Cortez of Barangay Paliparan in Dasmariñas, Cavite, opened her newspaper and scanned the latest election results, she was seized with a feeling of disbelief, even unreality.

The paper said Fernando Poe Jr. was leading the presidential race by 40,000 votes, but hadn't she read somewhere that, according to an exit poll, President Macapagal-Arroyo was already the winner?

As with many other Filipinos, the complexities and need for exit polls have largely escaped the 39-year-old Bicolana mother of three. She felt she was being cheated of something she was entitled to: that her vote be counted.

"Ang nagpapanalo sa kandidato ay boto, at gusto ng tao mabilang ang boto nila (It is the votes that make a candidate win and people want their votes to count)," Cortez told the INQUIRER.

She added: "*Bakit ka pa gagastos sa watchers, bakit pa maghihirap ang mga teachers sa pagbibilang kung tapos na ang boksing* (Why should a candidate spend on watchers, why should teachers endure so much just to count the ballots if the fight is over)?"

Antonio Gatmaitan, head of the Political Economy Applied Research (PEAR) Foundation, said it might take a while for Filipinos to accept exit polls.

"There is a cultural resistance to it because it is contrary to the many ways we view elections, like the marathon counting, *'yung labanan sa presinto* (the squabblings in the precincts)," Gatmaitan explained.

EXIT/ A22

GMA's amazing comeback; how she did it

By Amando Doronila

ANALYSIS

THE 2004 ELECTIONS blasted two myths—the first is the Myth of Sisyphus, the second the Myth of Invincibility.

The first concerns the uphill struggle of President Macapagal-Arroyo to regain the initiative in a closely contested presidential election.

The second is associated with the collapse of the high-flying bubble of the campaign of Fernando Poe Jr. The implosion of the Poe campaign is the focus of a second article tomorrow.

Of the more than a dozen presidential elections I have observed during the past 40 years, I have not seen a more amazing political comeback than that staged by Ms Macapagal. It is not inappropriate to recall the curse of Sisyphus as a metaphor. Ms Macapagal's struggle involved pushing a boulder uphill. This time, shattering the myth, the boulder did not roll down to crush her.

This article attempts to reconstruct the high points of her campaign that had seemed doomed two years ago. The reconstruction is based on interviews with some of her close political lieutenants involved in plotting her political strategy.

Although the unofficial Namfrel tabulation is far from complete, there are reasonable indications that Ms Macapagal is on the road to victory and that the final results, not excluding those of Namfrel, will come close to the exit polls conducted by Social Weather Stations.

To resurrect her campaign, she started from the bottom—ground zero. Nothing could have been a bleaker starting point than Dec. 30, 2002 when she declared she was not running in May 2004.

GMA'S/ A4

CHAMP IS BACK
Manny Pacquiao holds the Ring Magazine championship belt upon his arrival Thursday, but he failed to bring home the championship belts he had planned to wrest from Mexico's Juan Manuel Marquez, who fought him to a draw in Las Vegas on Sunday. *(Story on Page A25)*

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Mindanao will experience widespread rainshowers and thunderstorms while Southern Luzon and Visayas will have cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers.
SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/05/14/04

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Widespread Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Widespread Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

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Second FRONT PAGE

Election death toll rises to 141

AT LEAST six people died yesterday in separate election-related incidents, including a running sea battle in Maguindanao, raising to 141 the number of people killed nationwide since the election period began on Dec. 15.

But President Macapagal-Arroyo downplayed the killings, saying these were "relatively isolated and have not affected the generally peaceful and credible character" of the May 10 elections.

A Bayan Muna barangay coordinator was shot dead by unidentified armed men in Barangay Ikirin in Pagbilao town in Quezon province.

The shooting came a day after the slay attempt on a militant Anakpawis provincial leader in Gumaca, Quezon. Anakpawis and Bayan Muna are allied party-list groups vying for seats in the House of Representatives.

Marilyn Quierrez, Bayan Muna-Quezon chair, identified the victim as Conrado "Gado" Katigbak, the village coordinator of the militant group.

Of the fatalities reported yesterday, five were from Mindanao.

Two people were killed during a running gun battle off Bongo Island in Parang, Maguindanao, between police and followers of a losing vice mayoral candidate, who earlier shot dead a relative of his rival after he got a zero vote on the island.

In Marawi City, two of those wounded in Tuesday night's shooting incident on the campus of the Mindanao State University (MSU) died yesterday while being treated in a hospital.

This brought to three the total number of people killed after Marine soldiers allegedly opened fire at a crowd inside the MSU campus where canvassing was being held. Six others were wounded.

In Monkayo, Compostela Valley, Henry Buduan, 39, and a supporter of Monkayo mayoral candidate Franco Tito, was shot dead while sleeping inside a Pajero parked outside the house of another Tito supporter in Purok 7 in Barangay Diwata.

Accept verdict

At a press conference in Camp Aguinaldo, Lt. Gen. Rodolfo Garcia, Armed Forces of the Philippines vice chief of staff, said that as of yesterday the number of casualties from 182 violent incidents reached 141.

The number of people who died already exceeded the 111 who died in the 2001 elections. Eighty-seven people died in the 1998 elections, 83 in the 1995 elections and 56 in the 1992 elections.

Garcia, head of the AFP's Task Force HOPE (Honest, Orderly, Peaceful Elections), said 122 people died before the elections. He noted that 14 people died on Election Day and another five the day after.

He said there were 125 violent incidents before the elections, 43 on Election Day itself and 24 after May 10.

The military leadership is investigating the reported involvement of Marines in the shooting incident at MSU, according to Garcia.

He said that based on the report the AFP received, the soldiers were passing through the MSU gym when they were fired upon. The Marines fired back, killing Renie Antonette Ylana.

Close range

The chair of Bayan Muna-Quezon said Katigbak was on his way home from work when unidentified male suspects fired at him at close range at noontime yesterday.

The victim was declared dead on arrival at the nearest hospital in Pagbilao.

Quierrez said Katigbak had been an active Bayan Muna coordinator and campaigner. The victim's wife is the treasurer of Bayan Muna-Pagbilao chapter.

"The Macapagal-Arroyo administration and her fascist men in uniform were behind all these bloody killings," Quierrez said over the phone.

Pedro "Tata Pido" Gonzalez, the Anakpawis Quezon provincial chair, barely survived the Wednesday night ambush. He sustained a total of seven gunshot wounds in different parts of the body.

Doctors have removed a slug from a .38-caliber pistol embedded in his stomach. One of the bullets pierced his INQUIRER cap and hit him at the back of his left ear. The slug exited his right cheek.

Police recovered five empty shells from a .45-caliber pistol and two slugs on the scene of the shooting in the corner of the provincial road and a subdivision entry road, some 30 meters from the Anakpawis headquarters.

"If I did not fall in the canal after the first burst of gunfire, they could have killed me," he told the INQUIRER.

Gonzales is the national vice-chair of the Pambansang Lakas ng Mamamalakaya ng Pilipinas and the chair of the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan in Quezon. He is the most vocal critic of military abuses in the province.

His wife, Medy, asked: "Why did they still want to kill Pido when he already lost his election bid as provincial board member?"

Bayan Muna Rep. Satur Ocampo said: "They are now killing us like birds." He reiterated his call for Ms Macapagal to stop the wave of killings against members of progressive forces. *Reports from Delfin T. Mallari Jr., Alcuin Papa, Nash B. Maulana and Rosa-May V. de Guzman Martin P. Marfil, Christian Esguerra and Juliet Labog-Javellana in Manila and Dennis Santos, Rex G. Ortega and Edwin O. Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Time to concede, Drilon tells election tailenders

By Michael Lim Ubac

CANDIDATES trailing behind President Macapagal-Arroyo and Fernando Poe Jr. in the parallel quick counts and exit polls should concede defeat, said Senate President Franklin Drilon.

Although he did not name names, Drilon was referring to presidential candidates Panfilo Lacson, Raul Roco and Eddie Villanueva.

The latest National Citizens Movement for Free Elections tally showed results from only 6.62 percent of the 216,382 precincts nationwide. But this early, Drilon has told the ANC news channel that the problem with politicians in this country is that "nobody wants to concede (defeat)."

"We always complain during an electoral contest. Nobody seems to be satisfied or (would) accept defeat," said Drilon, a staunch ally of Ms Macapagal.

He said conceding defeat at this point would help stabilize the highly charged political atmosphere, and usher in a smooth political transition come June 30.

"It might be appropriate if some candidates who did not make it would consider making statements respecting the results of a fair election if only to keep our people calm and leave in the dark any adventurists who may take advantage of the tense situation."

Drilon also scored the camps of Poe and Villanueva for crying fraud without first presenting proof.

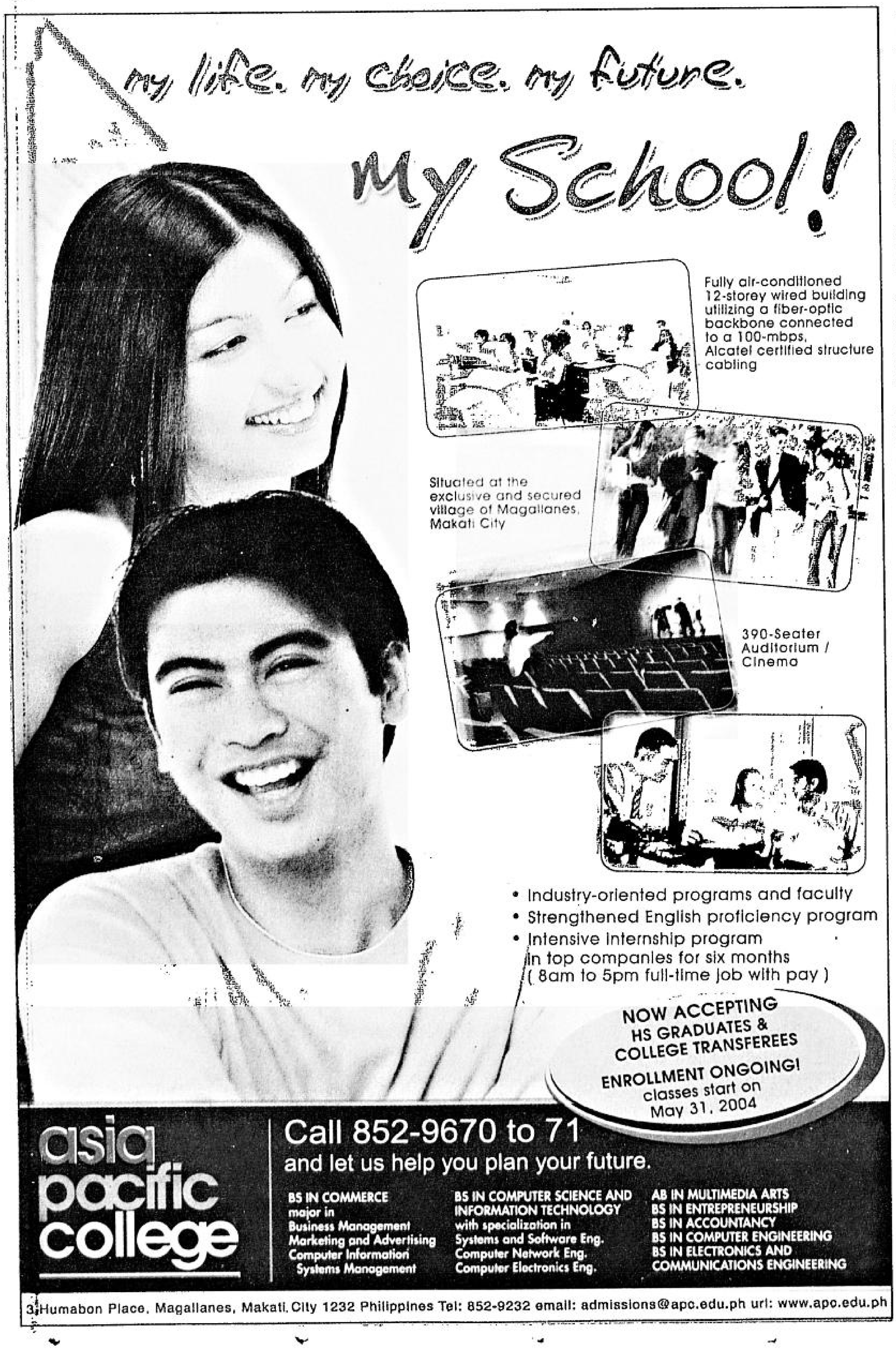
"There can be areas where there was cheating, but let's not generalize. Let us be specific... which municipality, (and) if possible which precinct," he said.

Crying fraud when there's no evidence only creates tension, he added.

On Wednesday, a group of foreign observers expressed shock and concern at the violence and fraud that marked the May 10 elections.

However, Drilon insisted that "by and large, it was a peaceful and orderly election."

Short of sweeping under the rug field reports of election fraud, violence and massive disenfranchisement of voters, he declared: "We cannot call it a perfect exercise, but certainly it is a democratic exercise. As a means of changing leadership at the local and national level, I think it has achieved its purpose."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Economists twit GMA 6-point plan

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo, the projected winner of the May 10 elections, has announced a six-point pledge to help the poor.

But economists yesterday questioned where the government will get the money to finance these projects.

A day after exit polls predicted she was headed for a fresh six-year term from Monday's vote, the President on Wednesday promised to begin work in six vital areas: jobs, education, electricity, water, loans and medicine.

She vowed to create one million jobs a year for the next six years and to supply clean water to all villages, cut electricity costs that are one of the highest in Asia, and bring power to 1,500 villages a year.

On education she promised 3,000 new school houses, scholarships for every poor family and computers for every school. She also promised to triple loans to small businesses and the self-employed and halve the prices of essential medicines.

"It is easy to promise all this but who is going to pay? The taxpayer?" said Peter Wallace, an independent consultant to multinationals.

Presidential Spokesperson Ignacio Bunye conceded that these projects would require substantial funds. He said the President would meet her Cabinet Friday to discuss project funding.

Ms Macapagal's running mate, Sen. Noli de Castro, who is also projected to win the vice-presidential race, yesterday called on all winning local candidates to "immediately refocus the debate on politics" into real public service and join the President in "translating into government policies and programs her campaign agenda and promises."

The Manila-based Asian Development Bank estimates Philippine debt at P100 billion, or about 120 percent of gross domestic product.

Economists earlier warned of a potential fiscal crisis for a government relying on debt to finance its operations as well as to pay off maturing obligations. The budget deficit stood at 4.6 percent of GDP last year.

Mario Lamberte, head of the quasi-government think-tank Philippine Institute for Development Studies, said the presidential winner must heal partisan wounds first and focus on two most urgent issues—passing pending tax measures in Congress and addressing a looming power crisis.

The stalled revenue measures include restructuring of excise taxes on liquor designed to raise P7 billion annually. *AFP*

Noli, Loren urge: Protect our votes

THEY'RE both true believers, one of exit polls and the other of quick counts.

Thus did vice presidential rivals Noli de Castro and Loren Legarda, both confident of victory, urge their supporters and the National Citizens Movement for Free Elections to protect their votes.

De Castro said he remains "extremely confident" he would be proclaimed winner, citing the Social Weather Stations exit poll that projected him winner of the vice presidential derby by a margin of 8 percent.

De Castro, running mate of President Macapagal in the administration ticket, reiterated his call for the people to remain vigilant so their true will would emerge and "desperate groups" would be frustrated in their plans to cheat.

He cited the SWS exit poll showing him garnering 46.56 percent of the votes against Legarda's 38.68 percent.

But Legarda was unfazed as she and senatorial candidate Alfredo Lim visited Namfrel, saying they're relying on Namfrel to protect their votes and provide an accurate tabulation of the election results.

As of 5 p.m. yesterday, the Namfrel had De Castro ahead with a total of 1,092,290 votes against Legarda's 996,587 votes. The figures, however, represented only 7.23 percent of the total votes cast.

"They asked me to guard their votes," Namfrel chair Jose Concepcion said of Legarda and Lim's visit. "Loren, in particular wanted to make sure her votes are counted. She said the Namfrel count is her only hope. I kidded her and said, 'I will guard your votes but I will also protect the votes of Noli de Castro and the other candidates.'" *Cynthia Balana*

Absentee vote count winding down; GMA with 'commanding lead'

By Jerome Aning

WITH the tabulation of some 230,000 overseas absentee votes nearly over, President Macapagal-Arroyo is reportedly enjoying "a very commanding lead" over actor Fernando Poe Jr.

Two precincts in Hong Kong have yet to turn in results because the chairs of their vote counting boards had fallen ill due to exhaustion.

But Catherine Maceda, head of the Department of Foreign Affairs' Overseas Absentee Voting (OAV) Secretariat, said yesterday: "Based on the tally that we have, (Ms Macapagal) won't be dislodged."

Maceda refused to disclose the figures, citing election rules. (Results of the National Movement for Free Elections' quick count of overseas votes as of 9 a.m. yesterday showed Ms Macapagal with 21,240 votes, compared to Poe's 9,536.)

The 577 overseas voting precints were reduced to 442 counting precincts.

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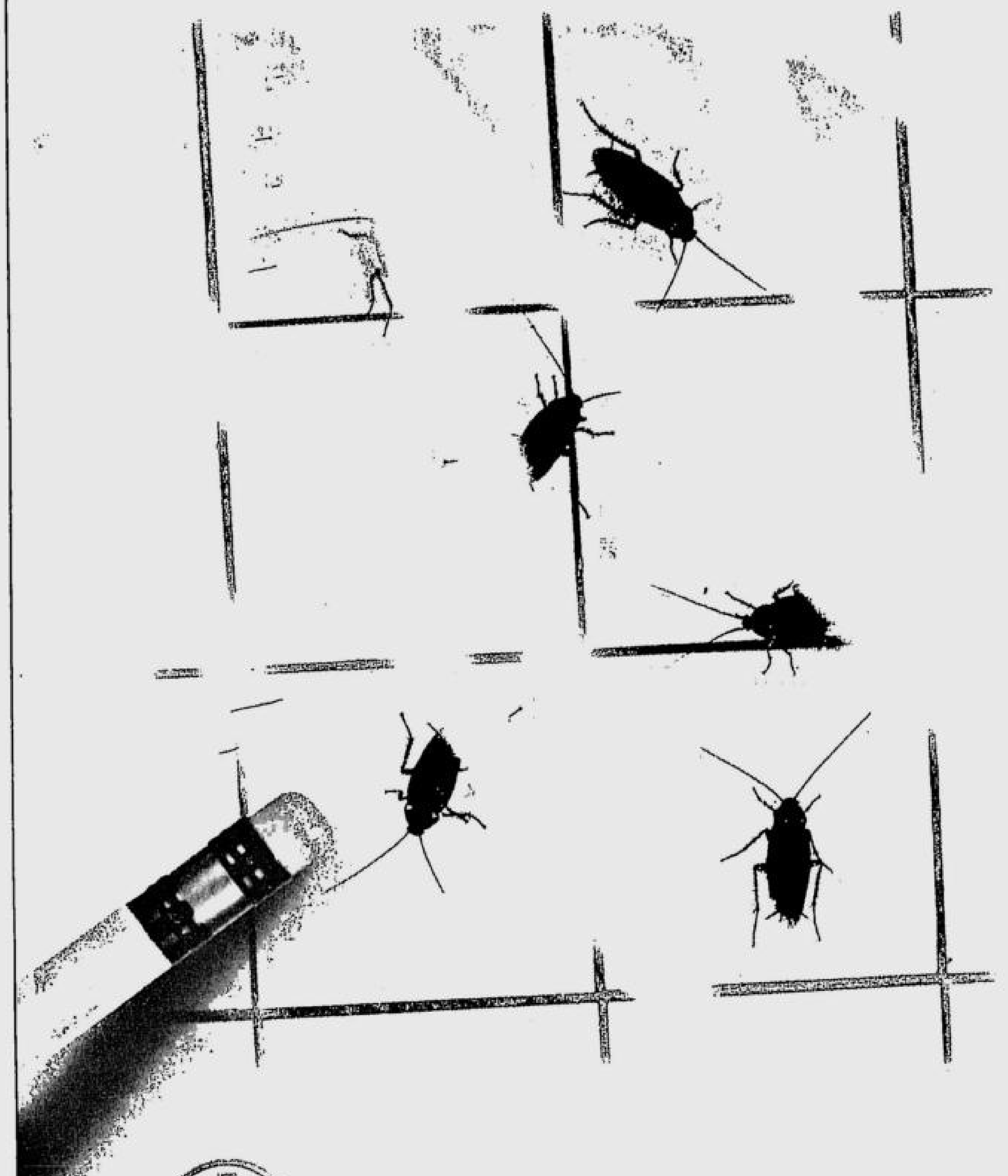

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MS MACAPAGAL

GMA's amazing comeback; how she did it

From page A1

When she decided a year later to reverse her decision, her credibility sank. SWS found in its November 2003 survey that her net satisfaction rating was down to negative three points. Fifty-six percent disagreed with her change of mind and 40 percent believed in Sen. Panfilo Lacson's accusation that "Jose Pidal" was her husband, Mike Arroyo.

She survived the backlash over her reversal, as well as all the sludge that her opponents threw at her in the media and the Senate hearings. They poured more scum on her than what literally could have been pumped out of the sewers of Paris.

In January, according to SWS, her popularity stood at 26.5 percent, nearly 10 percent behind Poe's 36.3 percent, Poe's highest rating in the six-month campaign period. By May 2004, she had seized the upper hand, with 37 percent to Poe's 30 percent.

Worst-case scenario

How could her recovery be explained? Part of the explanation was the strategy adopted by Ms Macapagal. Essentially, her strategy was based on the worst-case scenario defined by the surveys.

By contrast, Poe' strategy was based on the most optimistic scenario built on the myth of invincibility which will be discussed in the second article.

What went right, wrong

I asked one of the President's close strategy advisers, Senate President Franklin Drilon what went right with the President's campaign and what were its turning points. Or, what went wrong with the Poe campaign.

According to Drilon: (1) The opposition failed to field candidates for congressional and local positions in more than 50 percent of the seats. (2) Failure of Poe to engage in debate and to articulate a platform. (3) Poe's bad relations with the media, against which he had a running battle during the campaign while at the same time he was fighting the administration and while his camp was riven by internal squabbles and by his deep-seated conflict with Lacson. (4) Poe's one-line pronouncements on the economy rattled the business community and reinforced the issue questioning his competence to run the country. This issue also sank into the consciousness of the middle and lower-middle classes.

Fighting a popular candidate

The President's advisers were conscious of the fact that she was fighting a popular candidate. They were aware that Poe was following the traditional method of addressing rallies. They thought she could not compete with Poe in crowd-drawing power. If she did, she would suffer in comparison. The strategy was to focus on small-town gatherings *(pulong bayan)* where she explained her programs.

The strategy was based on issues not on popularity. She did not have a grand *"miting de avance,"* in contrast with Poe, Eddie Villanueva and even Raul Roco.

Blunting Pidal issue

Speaker Jose de Venecia and another presidential adviser agreed with Drilon that the President blunted the Pidal issue by refocusing her campaign to basic needs projects. Their internal surveys showed that the rural and even lower-class voters were more concerned about clean water, road repairs, crops seeds and health relief. These concerns were translated into job-creating road maintenance projects and PhilHealth cards. The President apparently took a leaf from her father's emergency employment program for short-term job creation. Road and school-building programs were the secret of his reelection campaign in 1969.

Thus, clean water was a key image in her campaign. President Magsaysay captured the support of the masses by using artesian wells as the key symbol of his mass-oriented presidency.

Turning points

Drilon, De Venecia and the presidential aide I interviewed agreed on the turning points of the campaign, including:

(1) The campaign took a semblance of gaining a snowball effect following the surveys in March and April which showed the President had tied with Poe, and had in April broken away from the tie to move ahead.

(2) The departure of Raul Roco for the United States for medical treatment. The trip was costly to Roco. He lost half of his 16-percent rating in the surveys. The President's strategists reckoned half of the 8 percent of Roco's vote went to the President.

(3) There were nervous moments over moves for unity between Poe and Lacson.

(4) The strategists admitted that the Iglesia ni Cristo and the El Shaddai endorsements gave a bandwagon boost to the GMA campaign. They admitted that the lenient treatment of former President Joseph Estrada helped swing the INC support for the President.

(5) On the squabbles inside the Poe camp, the administration strategists received intelligence reports that many of his media advisers found Poe a "difficult product to sell." Some of his media team said they prepared "well-written speeches," but that he hardly read them, making them feel frustrated. Instead, they complained, Poe fell back on one-liner sound bites.

(6) The disqualification case against Poe in the Supreme Court on the grounds of citizenship set back his campaign. The case, hanging fire for more than two weeks, created uncertainty among campaign contributors. The uncertainty slowed the flow of campaign contributions.

Although Poe won the case, his ratings did not increase because of it. Poe's camp at that stage had begun to complain their war chest was running out.

(7) The President's strategists believed that part of the reason for the fund shortages stemmed from the perception by prospective contributors that Poe could be beaten.

'Feet of clay'

In the collision with political reality, Poe was found to have feet of clay and the myth of his invincibility was wearing thin. On the matter of nerves, Poe revealed he could easily be rattled. The contrast was clear that the President had more nerve. She took all the shocks on the chin, but Poe's outbursts of temper revealed that he got rattled easily under pressure.

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Pimentel cautions FPJ: Don't cry fraud just yet

From page A1

election under the KNP, yesterday said he told Poe in a meeting at the house of ex-Sen. Tessie Aquino-Oreta a day after the elections to be calm and desist for now from claiming to be a victim of electoral fraud.

Pimentel said he pointed out that the Commission on Elections had not even started its official count. "How can we say with any degree of credibility that we have proof of wrongdoing or election manipulation without any evidence?" he said at the Round table forum at the Manila Pavilion hotel.

In Malacañang, President Macapagal-Arroyo has instructed her people not to comment on the election results, to erase the perception that she was gloating over her reported victory even before the Comelec could begin its count.

"The President does not want to make any more comments on the trends in the counting as she wants to concentrate on governance. We've been told not to comment and to refrain from discussions on electoral matters," said her spokesperson, Ignacio Bunye.

He added that the move was also a way to avoid further antagonizing her rivals.

Bunye was reacting to the INQUIRER editorial yesterday that criticized Malacañang's "posture of elation at this early stage."

He said Malacañang had never said Ms Macapagal was the winner.

"I believe that's a conclusion reached by the media based on what they observe. The President would just like to concentrate on governance and let the counting process run its course," he said.

Some government-run TV and print outlets and even the Atlanta-based CNN had earlier reported that Ms Macapagal won a new six-year term. The reports were based on a Social Weather Stations exit poll showing her with a 41-percent share of the votes, compared to Poe's 32-percent share.

Pinpointing proof in every precinct

Pimentel, who exposed the 1995 *dagdag-bawas* (vote-padding and shaving) scheme of which he was a victim, admitted that the KNP still did not have concrete proof to back "suspicions of nationwide fraudulent elections."

"Let us assume that the Commission on Elections is doing its job," he said, quickly adding:

"But we are not prepared to say that we cannot prove [fraud]."

Pimentel said that the KNP was "trying to pinpoint in every precinct" if and how fraud happened, and that "in time," it would present what it had gathered and prove that there was fraud, as he did in the *dagdag-bawas* case.

At the same Roundtable forum, Bangon Pilipinas spokesperson Luis Sison said that while his party had evidence of fraudulent acts, it was still assessing the evidence to determine its course of action.

"There is evidence that there has been impropriety in the conduct of the elections," Sison said, adding that thousands of people had been deprived of their right to vote.

Sison also said Bangon Pilipinas standard-bearer Eddie Villanueva had not made any provocative .statements because he did not want to fuel any more anger while counting was ongoing.

Religious groups gathered on Wednesday for a hastily called prayer rally in front of the Manila Cathedral following Poe's broadside at the media for alleged biased reporting of the partial, unofficial counts.

In an interview after the prayers, Fr. Romeo Intengan, provincial superior of the Society of Jesus, said the "vehemence and surrealness" of the statements of both the opposition and the administration were "leading to a confrontation."

"It is becoming very antagonistic ... We come in spirit to make people more disposed to reason and dialogue so we can move toward peace and development ... whoever wins," Intengan said.

Makati rally

But Pimentel said that even during Poe's two-minute press conference on Tuesday, the movie idol did not issue any provocative statements.

He pointed out that Poe did not attend the rally in Makati Tuesday night which, he stressed, was a victory parade for Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay and not for Poe.

"I hate to say this, but I was a very vocal oppositionist to the invitation extended to Mr. Poe to join the Makati rally," Pimentel said.

He said he had asked Poe: "What will you say there? If you say we were cheated, where is the proof? You will look foolish and insincere in your quest for honest elections by making charges that we cannot back at this point."

Pimentel said he also spoke with Binay during the Makati rally and asked the mayor to "stop it because [he has] already proven [his] point that in local governance, it is the mayor who has the right to issue [a rally permit]."

Namfrel

Poe's camp accused the National Citizens Movement for Free Elections of manipulating election results by shaving votes cast for the actor in Region 4 (Southern Tagalog).

"The problem begins with Namfrel," said KNP senatorial candidate Francisco Tatad.

Tatad and KNP election lawyer Fortune Mayuga presented two Namfrel reports: one, Report No. 21 released at 3 a.m. yesterday, showed that Poe had votes totaling 139,651 from Southern Tagalog, and the other, Report No. 22, released at 7 a.m., showing that Poe's votes had decreased to 113,836 even though the total number of precincts in Regions 1-8, whose tallies had been accounted for, had in fact increased.

Tatad and Mayuga noted that based on Report No. 21, Namfrel had already tallied results from 10,474 precincts in Regions 1-8 as of 3 a.m. yesterday. The number of precincts increased to 12,186 as of 7 a.m., based on Report No. 23.

Tatad also noted that Namfrel later restored Poe's votes in Region 4 to 139,651 and placed the number of precincts tallied to 12,501 by 9 a.m.

"This is certainly highly irregular," he said.

Mayoral dispute

On the other hand, Namfrel secretary general Guillermo Luz said the discrepancy in its unofficial quick count was a result of a mayoral dispute in Biñan, Laguna.

Luz said the glitch occurred after they decided to momentarily set aside the results they got from Biñan, after the canvassing of votes there was stopped because of the mayoral dispute.

Namfrel's decision led to a drop in the number of votes from Southern Luzon for all the candidates. The drop was reflected in Report No. 22.

Poe's votes dropped from 139,651 to 113,836; Ms Macapagal's from 71,119 to 63,154; Sen. Panfilo Lacson's from 54,445 to 47,967; Villanueva's from 26,562 to 23,635, and Raul Roco's from 23,324 to 20,683.

Luz said the figures were corrected only when Namfrel released its Report No. 24 at 9 a.m.

"We set aside Biñan, Laguna, momentarily because the canvassing was stopped due to local mayoralty problems. We asked our people to get an inventory for their election results from Biñan," Luz said.

He also said he had explained the matter to the KNP, "and they seemed to be OK with it."

Ballot-snatching

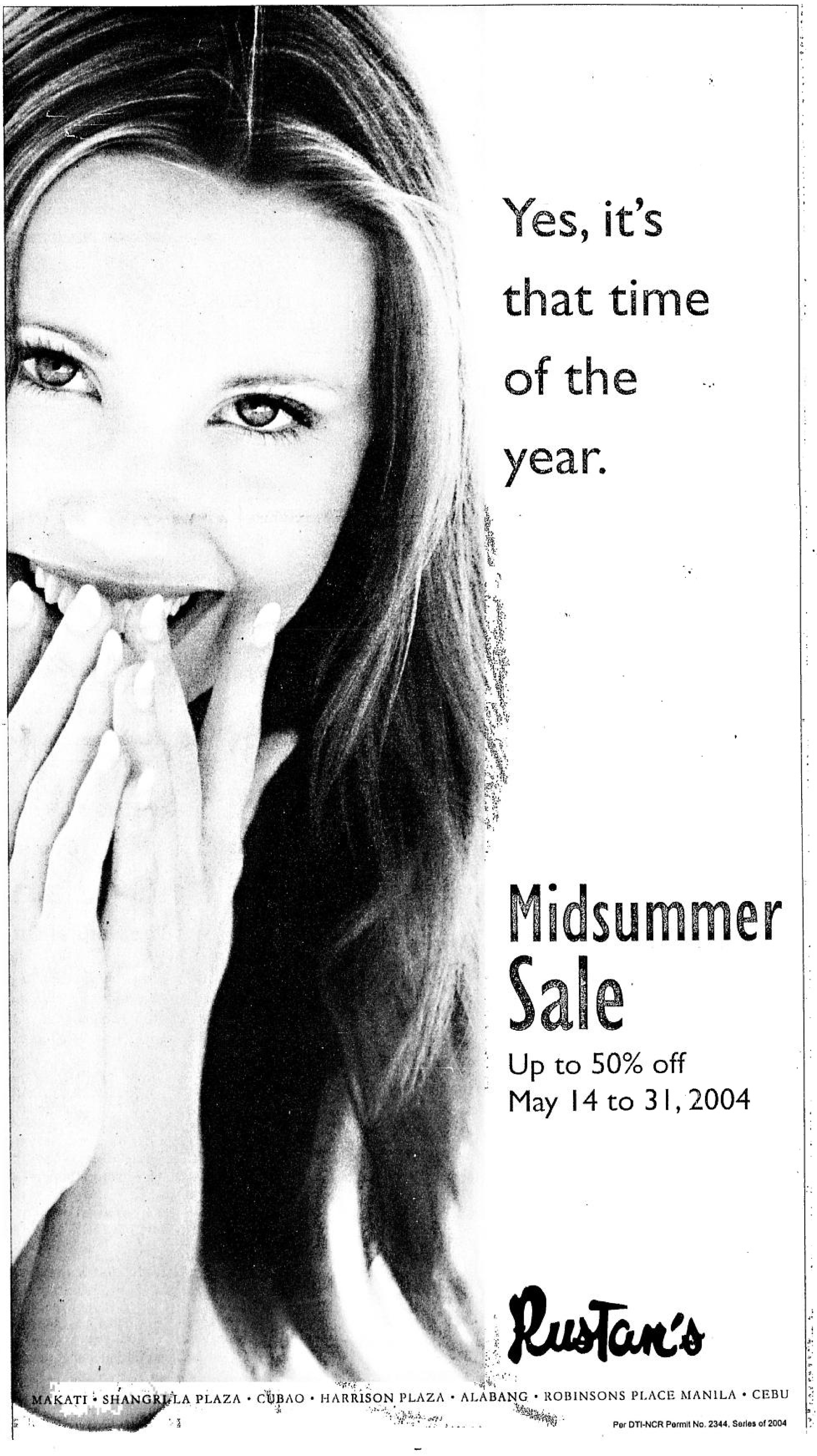
In Cotabato City, KNP senatorial candidate Didagen Dilangalen had three ballot boxes seized so he could submit for "public judgment" supposed proof that top-to-bottom candidates of his party would be winning if not for the alleged fraud.

Dilangalen, representative of Maguindanao's first district in the House, said he had the ballot boxes seized from city hall through "citizen's arrest." The boxes, which came from the city's Notre Dame Village, were marked 317-A, 318-C and 317-C.

City hall sources said the ballot boxes were taken Wednesday night.

Dilangalen said only by authority of the Comelec central office in Manila could the ballot boxes be removed from "citizens' custody."

"I am a lawyer, and I know what I'm doing," he said. *With reports from Carlito Pablo and Philip C. Tubeza; Nash B. Maulana and Rosa-May de Guzman, PDI Mindanao Bureau*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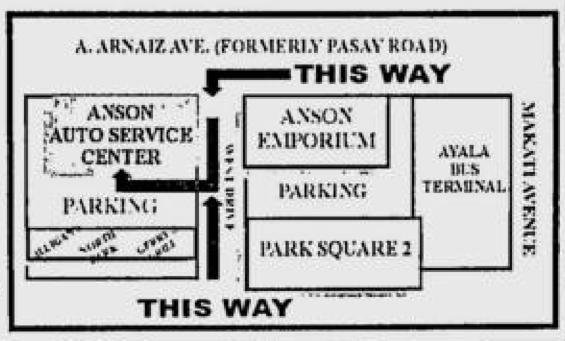

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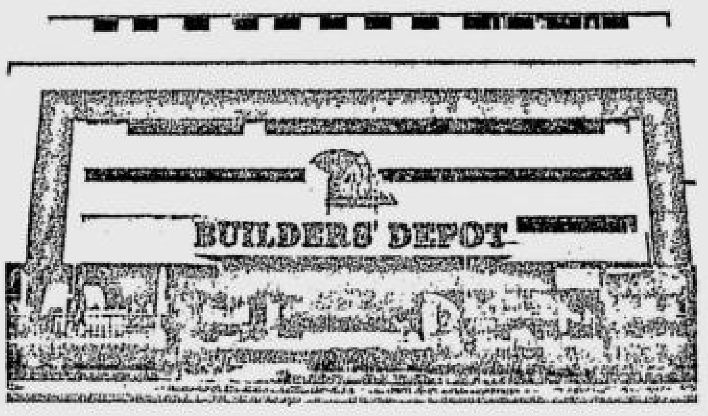

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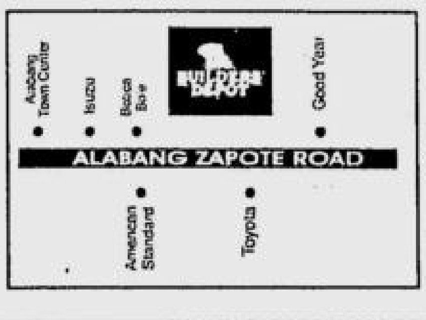

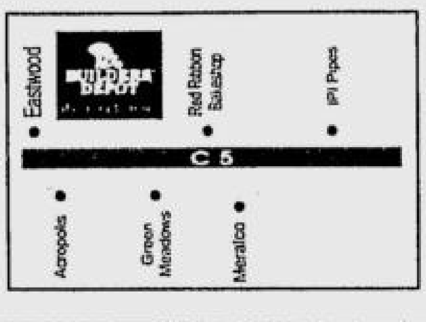

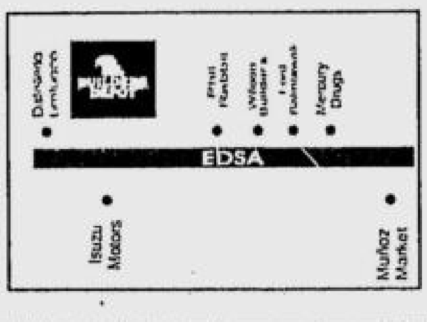

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US airs concern for safety of Americans in Malaysia

WASHINGTON—The United States on Wednesday renewed concerns over the safety of American citizens and interests in Malaysia, especially in Sabah state on Borneo island, amid a terrorism threat in Southeast Asia.

But Malaysian Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi was quick to dismiss the terrorism warning against travel to Malaysia, saying his country was on top of the security.

"We can manage it. We will be able to make sure that Malaysia will continue to be peaceful and politically stable," Abdullah told a news conference.

Abdullah said that while his country was concerned about any threats, the government was on guard and had taken steps to boost security.

Malaysia has not had terror attacks on its own soil, but has detained more than 80 alleged Islamic militants accused of planning the violent overthrow of the state or of belonging to organizations such as the al-Qaeda-linked Jemaah Islamiyah (JI).

US warnings against travel usually result in fierce condemnation by the targeted countries fearful of losing tourist income, but Abdullah appeared unconcerned.

"I do not anticipate any kind of further negative development as a result of that," he said.

The State Department's concern was incorporated in an advisory issued Wednesday following the kidnapping last month of two Malaysians and an Indonesian in southern Philippine waters off the coast of eastern Sabah.

They were believed to have been abducted from their vessel by the southern Philippines-based Muslim Abu Sayyaf group believed linked to JI, the al-Qaeda terror network's Southeast Asian wing responsible for deadly bombings particularly in Indonesia.

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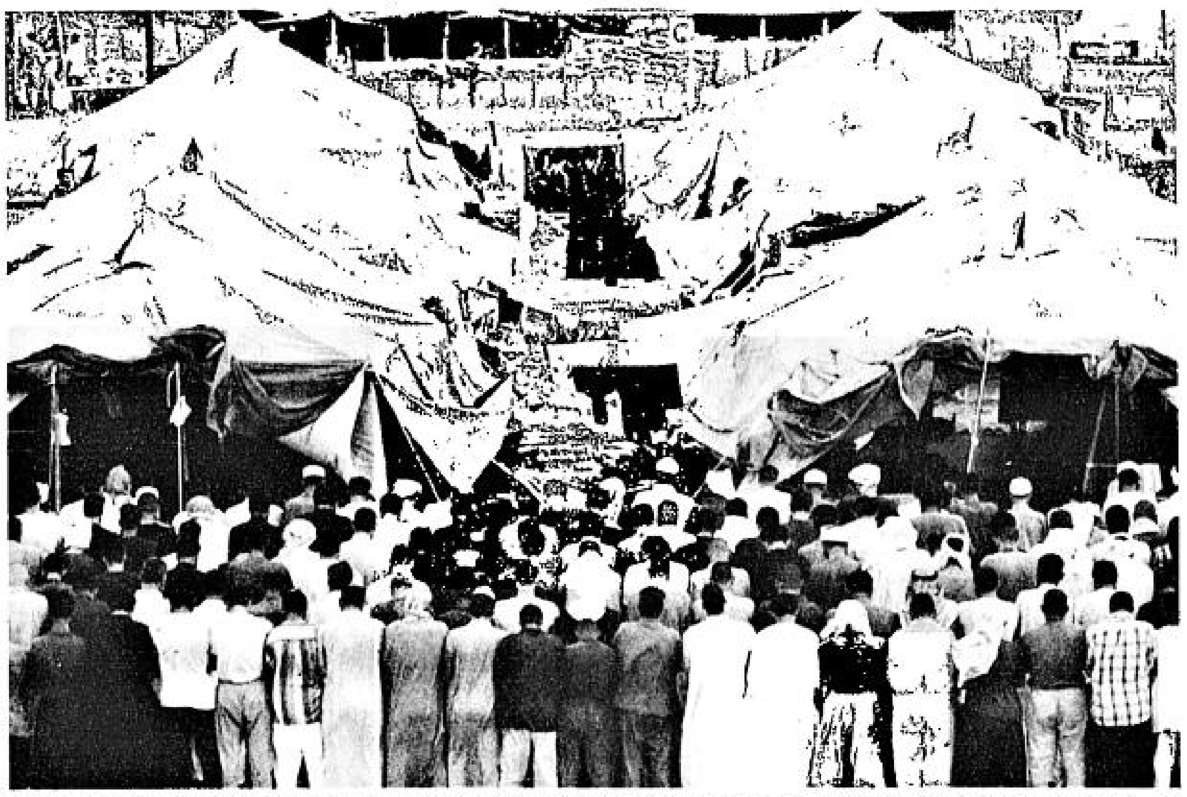
Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

US solons shocked by new abuse photos



DETAINEES gather for evening prayer at the Abu Ghraib Prison on the outskirts of Baghdad, Iraq, May 12. AP

WASHINGTON — Members of the US Congress saw new images of violence and sexual humiliation from a US-run Iraqi prison on Wednesday in a closed viewing one lawmaker likened to a descent into "the wings of hell."

Lawmakers said images showed inmates apparently being coerced to commit sodomy, wounds possibly from dog bites, a number of dead bodies, and examples of "sadistic torture" and "sexual humiliation."

Some top Republicans urged that the still pictures and video not be released publicly, saying they could endanger US forces overseas.

"What we saw is appalling. It is consistent with the photos that you've seen in the press to date. They go beyond that in many ways in terms of the various activities that are depicted," said Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist, a Tennessee Republican.

"There were some awful scenes. It felt like you were descending into one of the wings of hell and sadly it was our own creation," said Sen. Richard Durbin, an Illinois Democrat.

"And when you think of the sadism, the violence, the sexual humiliation, after a while you just turn away, you just can't take it any more.

"I still cannot believe that this happened without the knowledge of those at higher levels," Durbin added.

Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld warned last week the pictures could worsen a scandal that ignited international outrage and shook US global prestige as the United States seeks to stabilize Iraq.

Senators and members of the House of Representatives had a chance over several hours to look at some 1,600 images in separate secure rooms in a presentation conducted by the Pentagon, which kept custody of the material.

Many lawmakers said the images were similar to photographs shown around the world of naked prisoners stacked in a pyramid or positioned to simulate sex acts at the Abu Ghraib prison near Baghdad, but they said some were even more shocking.

Lawmakers said they did not see examples of outright rape, murder or abuses of children.

Sen. Peter Fitzgerald, an Illinois Republican, said "many of the same people were involved over and over" in the photographs. "I didn't see different characters than the ones who have been in the newspapers," he said.

Durbin described a picture of a man with half his head "blown off," lying on the ground in blood and gore, but said there was no explanation of where that was taken.

An Islamic website on Tuesday showed an American civilian, Nick Berg of suburban Philadelphia, being beheaded by an al-Qaida leader in Iraq in revenge for the "Satanic degradation" of Iraqi prisoners. *Reuters*

Thailand's infamous Bridge on the River Kwai sees tourist boost

KANCHANABURI, Thailand—Renowned for its fabled Bridge on the River Kwai, Kanchanaburi province in Thailand's west is winning new fame as a top "war tourism" destination, amid a surge in interest for military history and ongoing conflicts.

The provincial capital of the same name has long played host to daytrippers, mostly Thai, Japanese and Chinese, blazing in from nearby Bangkok to see the death railway bridge which was immortalized by the Hollywood film.

One researcher involved with the town's ever-multiplying museums and attractions says the Iraq conflict has sparked renewed interest among young travelers keen to experience one of Asia's most important World War II sites.

"There is the war in Iraq and we are living in an age where there's more awareness about war and we see this in the increasing amount of young people coming to Kanchanaburi to find out about the past," said Rod Beattie.

"Australian, Dutch, English and American prisoners of war (POWs) all worked on the railway under the Japanese, as well as Asian forced laborers from across the region, so there are many people connected to this line," said Beattie, who is also the caretaker of the town's two war cemeteries, the largest of which holds the remains of 7,000 POWs.

Tourists who make the two-hour drive west of Bangkok are greeted by countless vendors selling Death Railway T-shirts and three newly erected concrete letters which unashamedly spell out "WAR"—the town's prime attraction.

For the camera-wielding visitors, the years of conflict are primarily rediscovered along the tracks of the infamous railway, which claimed the lives of about 16,000 POWs and 100,000 Asian forced laborers.

It was built by the Japanese between 1942-43 to move supplies from Thailand into Burma, also called Myanmar, along a route that engineers had long considered impossible.

It was completed in 16 months, and destroyed 20 months later by Allied bombers in 1945.

A long stretch of the Death Railway is still in use, and sections that disappeared beneath jungle for decades—such as Hellfire Pass, where hundreds of mostly Australian POWs died hand-cutting a passage through steep rock—have been restored and documented.

Trains used by the Japanese on the line now lie rusting in the town which for centuries acted as a front line between Thailand and its one-time enemy Burma. *AFP*

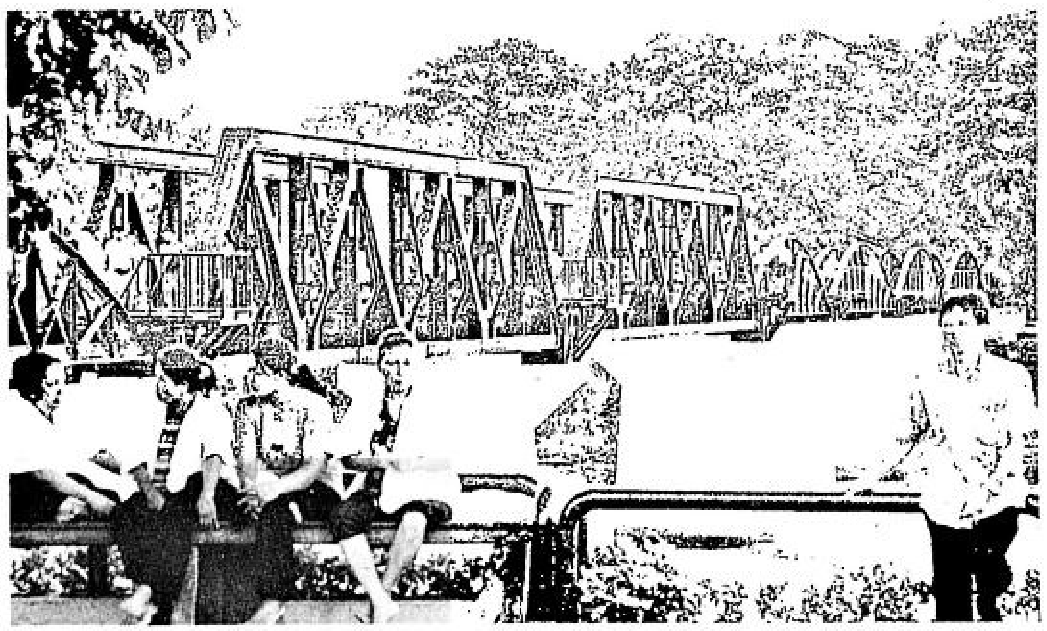


PHOTO taken April 27 shows local guides waiting for tourists next to the fabled Bridge on the River Kwai from the infamous death railway in Thailand's western Kanchanaburi province. AFP

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US mistreatment of Afghan prisoners also 'systemic'—Human Rights Watch

LONDON—Mistreatment of prisoners by US military and intelligence personnel in Afghanistan is 'systemic,' Human Rights Watch said Thursday, a day after the United States launched a probe into alleged abuse.

The watchdog called for the immediate release of results of past investigations into misconduct by US personnel in the war-torn country, including details about three Afghan detainees who died in US custody.

"Afghans have been telling us for well over a year about mistreatment in US custody," HRW's Afghanistan researcher John Sifton said in a statement, adding that the group had repeatedly alerted US officials to the problem.

"It's time now for the United States to publicize the results of its investigations of abuse, fully prosecute those responsible, and provide access to independent monitors."

On Wednesday a former Afghan police officer said how he suffered regular beatings, taunts about his sexual habits and sleep deprivation when he was detained by US forces last year.

The US military and embassy in the Afghan capital Kabul said they were investigating the claims of Khwaja Sayed Nabi Siddiqi, who also alleged he was stripped, kicked and photographed naked in custody at US bases.

The United States has drawn international criticism for its treatment of detainees in Iraq, captured in graphic photographs published worldwide.

Human Rights Watch said the United States had still not provided any adequate explanation for the three detainee deaths that took place in Afghanistan in 2002 and 2003.

The first two deaths, in December 2002, were specifically ruled homicides by US military pathologists, the group said. The third prisoner died in June 2003. *AFP*

Counting under way in huge India polls

NEW DELHI—Counting was under way Thursday in India's marathon elections, with early trends showing the ruling Hindu nationalists facing trailing the main opposition Congress party, election officials said.

One and a half hours into the counting of the 370 million votes cast in the five-phased ballot which ended on Monday, Congress and its allies were surging ahead in 160 seats while Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee's Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and its allies led in 139 constituencies, the officials said.

Other parties were leading in 75 seats, they added, cautioning that the figures were early trends and not reflective of the final results, which often are dramatically opposite.

The counting began at hundreds of counting stations across India at 8 a.m. and first results are expected to be out before noon.

With media exit polls predicting a hung parliament, India's top two parties have already been scrambling for coalition partners in a bid to secure the magic number of 272 seats to form a parliamentary majority.

The BJP, which has led coalitions since 1998 as the first avowedly Hindu party to rule secular India, called the election early to take advantage of the 79-year-old premier's popularity and surging economic growth.

But Congress appears to have exploited the BJP's "India Shining" reelection slogan by appealing to the rural poor who lack proper electricity and water, portraying the BJP's slick campaign as out of touch with the masses.

The BJP took a jolt Tuesday in state returns from Andhra Pradesh in south India where its largest partner in the last parliament, the Telugu Desam Party, was swept from power despite championing India's vaunted hi-tech industry.

More than 370 million people voted in the national election, held on five dates from April 20 to allow poll workers, police and soldiers to fan out to the nearly 687,500 voting stations. Little violence was reported during the vote, despite a boycott by separatists in Muslim-majority Kashmir. *AFP*

URUGUAY
MANY

MISS UNIVERSE BETS
Nicole Dupont Giglio, Miss Uruguay Universe 2004, and Shermine Sharivar, Miss Germany Universe 2004, pose together in their Endless Sun swimsuits during registration and fittings for the 2004 Miss Universe competition at the JW Marriott Hotel in Quito, Ecuador, on May 12. They will compete for the title of Miss Universe 2004 on June 1. REUTERS

Nigeria Muslims take revenge in bloody riots

KANO, Nigeria—Muslim militants fought bloody street battles with Christians in a second day of rioting in Nigeria's northern city of Kano on Wednesday which killed at least 25 people.

Braving heavily armed troops and police, bands of Muslim youths armed with cutlasses and clubs burned houses and set up roadblocks to kill minority Christians and avenge the slaying of hundreds of Muslims by Christians in central Nigeria last week.

A witness, Jackson Kentebe, described seeing at least 24 bodies lying on the streets in two districts of town, some burned and others bearing knife wounds to the head.

Police used live ammunition on rioters to restore order.

"I had to give the shoot on sight order as the killing and mayhem was getting out of hand," said police commissioner Ganiyu Dawodu at a press conference.

He confirmed 30 people were killed in two days, including 25 on Wednesday, but a senior security source said at least twice that number had been killed.

Ultimatum

Shortly before the riot started on Tuesday, Islamic elders had given the government an ultimatum to protect Muslims in the central Plateau state, where hundreds were killed by Christian militia in a land dispute last week, or face more violence.

Survivors of the attack on the remote farming town of Yelwa said they buried 630 corpses after a two-day assault by heavily armed militia. It was not possible to verify the figure independently. Police have said "hundreds" were killed.

The Opec oil exporting country of 130 million people is split equally between Muslims and Christians and has seen more than 6,000 killed in religious violence in five years since democracy returned in 1999.

A leader of the Christian minority in Kano, an Ibo chief called Boniface Ibekwe, said Christians would prefer to leave than live in perpetual fear.

"If Kano people cannot tolerate us, we should be given six months to vacate," he said. "We can no longer be living in perpetual fear in a place our safety is not guaranteed."

Outraged

Nigeria's Islamic leaders have been outraged by the government's failure to prevent the Yelwa massacre, despite warnings from local Muslims that an attack was imminent.

Muslims in Kano, 400 km north of the capital Abuja and the center of Islamic activism in Nigeria, feel a strong bond with kinsmen in Plateau state because they are mostly of the same Hausa-Fulani ethnic group.

People of the Tarok and other predominantly Christian tribes in Plateau accuse the Hausa-Fulani of invading their ancestral land and the militant groups want to drive them out of the state. Semi-nomadic Hausa-Fulani say their families have grazed cattle there for generations. *Reuters*

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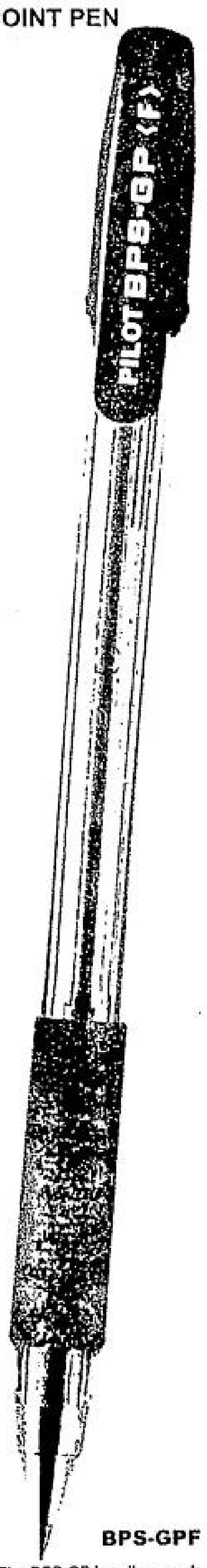

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Results come in but protests go on

Political clans crumble, new ones emerge in Visayas

CEBU CITY—The Abines family lorded over the southern towns of Samboan and Santander for about 40 years. But the results of Monday's elections showed that they have lost their might.

Former Rep. Crisologo Abines and his two sons failed to return to power after they were defeated by their respective rivals in different elective positions in the two municipalities.

Crisologo lost in the mayoral race in Santander to incumbent Mayor Wilson Wenceslao by a margin of 940 votes. Crisologo got 3,147 votes and Wenceslao, 4,087 votes. *(For other interesting races, see p. 12)*

His running mate, son Arnold James was defeated by Wenceslao's mother, Vice Mayor Marilyn Wenceslao.

Marilyn garnered 4,190 votes and Arnold, 3,026.

Only one of his candidates for councilor made it. The rest of the seven seats in the municipal council went to the camp of Wenceslao.

Sonny Gador, private secretary of Mayor Wenceslao, said the board of canvassers proclaimed the winners at about 5 p.m. on Tuesday.

Crisologo's other son, John Carl, ran for mayor of the adjacent Samboan town but lost to incumbent Mayor Peter John Calderon by about 2,000 votes.

Based on the partial results of the Commission on Elections (Comelec), Crisologo's sister who is running for board member in the second district did not win in her own hometown.

Based on the figures released by Comelec, Dee was tailing at third place in Santander with 1,589 votes. Her rivals, incumbent board member Antonio Almirante got 2,156 votes and Carmiano Cary, 2,055 in Santander.

The Abines family used to have complete economic and political power in Santander town, about 100 km south of this city.

His wife, Priscilla, was mayor of Santander for nine years while he was legislator, also for three terms, representing Cebu's second district.

During the 1998 elections, Abines ran and won as mayor of Samboan, the town next to Santander at the southern tip of Cebu and hometown of Priscilla, as he was constitutionally barred from running for a fourth term.

Arnold took over as mayor of Santander. Priscilla was supposed to take Crisologo's seat in Congress but was defeated by Simeon Kintanar, former National Telecommunications and Communications chief.

But their power started to wane in 2000 after residents started to complain about the alleged abuses of the Abineses that included harassment and "water terrorism"—cutting off the municipal-owned water supply of their political opponents.

Mayor Wenceslao said he was thankful that the people of Santander did not allow the Abineses to return to power, adding that his constituents might have appreciated the changes he made in the town during his first term.

He also noticed that there was no movement from the Abines camp following their defeat. He said they could already be tired.

The mayor said he had offered a hand of reconciliation to the Abines camp like what he did when he and his mother won in the 2001 election.

In Negros Occidental, at least seven town mayors and their respective slates have been proclaimed winners.

The first batch declared winners by the Comelec were three mayors and five vice mayors who ran unopposed.

POLITICAL/A11

SUPPORTERS of a mayoral candidate protesting the election results in Lanao del Sur barricade a road in Kapatagan town.
RYAN LIM/PDI MINDANAO BUREAU

Victor cries fraud; 3 bets proclaimed

DAVAO CITY—Three candidates for municipal mayors are now savoring their victory after they were declared winners by the Commission on Elections in Southern Mindanao.

Declared municipal mayors were Recarido Federiso of New Corella in Davao del Norte, Teopista Jauod of Montevista town in Compostela Valley, and Macario Humol of Nabunturan, also of Compostela Valley.

Continuous rains

Lawyer Lirio Joquino, Comelec director for Southern Mindanao, said it will take some time for the other towns to finish the canvassing of votes because of the heavy rains that started on election day making it hard for public school teachers to do the canvassing.

Most of the precincts in the 11 towns in Compostela Valley are situated in far-flung areas and the transportation of ballots for canvassing has been difficult because of the continuous rain.

Lawyer Gay Enumerables, Comelec officer in Compostela Valley, said there was nothing to worry about the delay as this had also happened in previous elections, citing the problem on transportation and communication facilities.

Unusual protests also emerged from the counting.

While it is common for losing candidates to complain about cheating, this candidate for mayor was complaining that although he won, he was nonetheless a victim of fraud and cheating.

Reelectionist Mayor Fernando Miguel, a candidate of the ruling Lakas-Christian Muslim Democrats, said he could have garnered a much bigger number of votes if his lone political rival did not rob him of his votes.

Based on the latest unofficial results of the Concerned Citizens for Honest, Orderly and Peaceful Elections-National Citizens Movement for Free Elections (CCHOPE-Namfrel) quick count, Miguel was ahead by 4,768 votes against his rival, former mayor Vicente de Jesus.

Miguel got 30,048 votes while De Jesus of the Koalisyon ng Nagkakaisang Pilipino (KNP) garnered 25,280 votes.

Proclamation

The Comelec has yet to proclaim Miguel and other winning candidates but if the current trend was to be used as a basis, it is quite obvious that Miguel would be the runaway winner.

"I can't believe only few voters backed me up," Miguel insisted.

The mayor, however, could not exactly say how he was cheated by his opponent.

He said there was a group supporting De Jesus, who tipped him off that his political opponents distributed rice and money to boost their political stock. *Aquiles Z. Zonio and Dennis Jay Santos, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Church suspends winning priest

By Vincent Cabreza
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—A Catholic priest, who was convicted by a regional court here for sexual misconduct, has won the mayoral race in the vegetable town of Buguias, Benguet.

But Fr. Nardo Cayat's victory only earned him a suspension from the Catholic Church.

Fr. Andres Cosalan, vicar of the Baguio-Benguet Catholic Vicariate, said Cayat violated a rule prohibiting priests from becoming politicians.

Cosalan said the Commission of the Clergy suspended Cayat in January for fondling a lay volunteer, who belongs to a prominent Ibaloi family, last year.

The Catholic suspension forbids Cayat from attending to his ministry, although it stops short of defrocking the controversial priest.

Cosalan said this is one of the gravest penalties a Catholic priest could receive in his career.

Cayat won over incumbent Buguias Vice Mayor Thomas Palileng, who obtained the priest's disqualification from the Commission on Elections on April 12.

Comelec Commissioners Rufino Javier, Resurrecion Borja and Virgilio Garcillano upheld a decision issued by Baguio-Benguet election officer Julius Torres that found Cayat guilty of filing his certificate of candidacy without disclosing that he is serving a probationary sentence for sexual molestation.

Guilty

Pálileng claimed that Cayat was guilty of perjury, although Torres concluded that Cayat could only be penalized for violating a "moral turpitude" clause in the Local Government Code.

Section 40 of the Code (Republic Act 7160) cited as a factor for

CHURCH/A13

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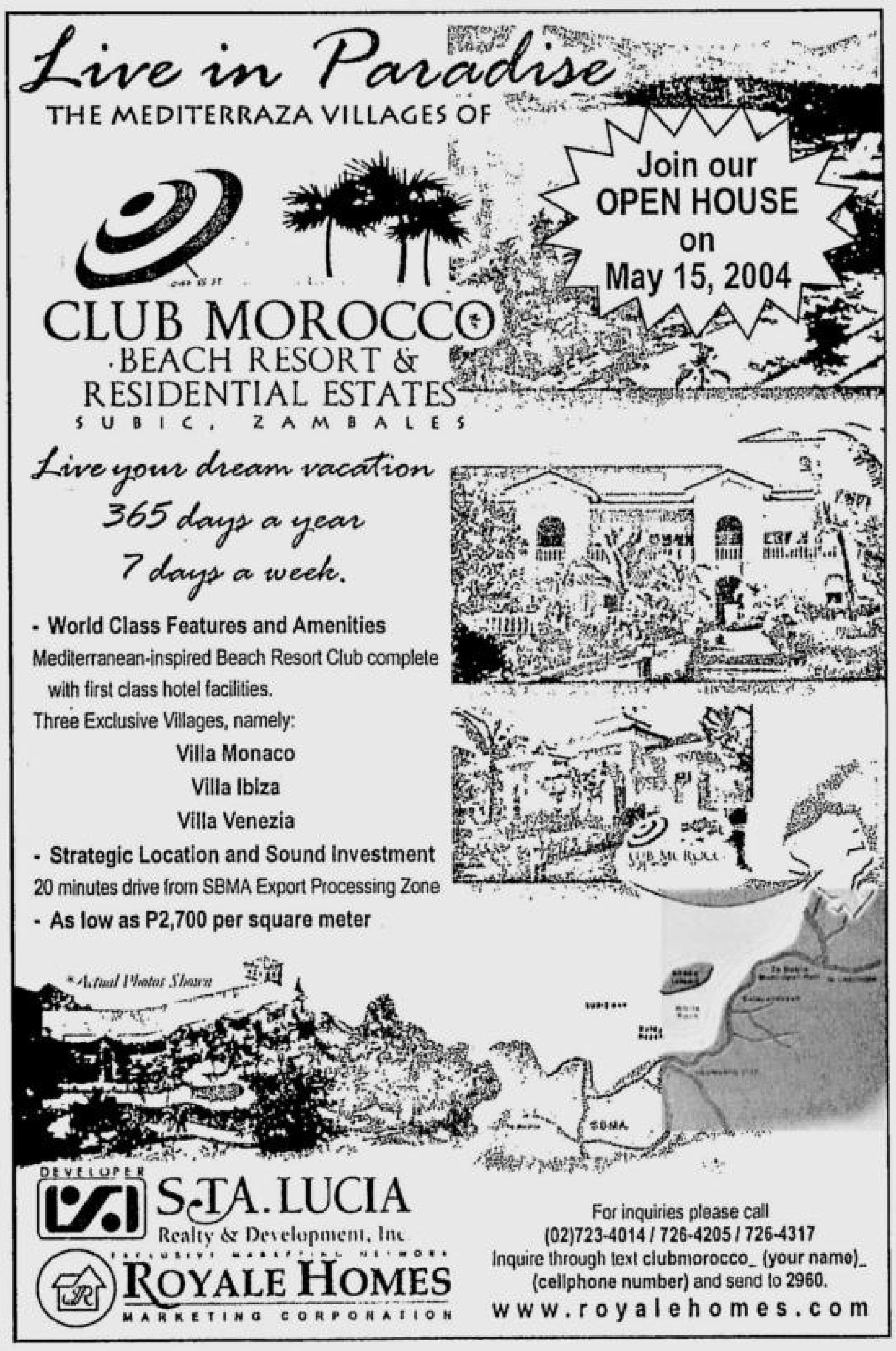
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Poll returns stolen in Batangas

RESIDENTS in Batangas City were held in suspense yesterday morning when the canvassing of votes was stopped after election officers discovered that the last two election returns (ERs) were missing at 2 a.m. The returns were supposed to determine the winner in this city's mayoral race

The suspension of the counting fueled tension between supporters of Lakas mayoral candidate Ruel "Wawing" Chavez and incumbent Mayor Eduardo Dimacuha.

As the crowd sympathetic to Chavez massed up outside the police-cordoned city hall grounds, the board of canvassers and the election officer inside the city council hall, where the canvassing was taking place, were looking for the missing election returns.

Chavez said he was cheated.

"The cheating happened at about 10 or 11 p.m. last night when the people were ordered to go out of the city council hall. My votes were ahead at that time by more than 1,000," Chavez said. "But when they resumed canvassing, Dimacuha was ahead by about 400 votes."

Incumbent Mayor Eduardo Dimacuha had 49,338 votes as of 2 a.m. Thursday, while Chavez had 48,869.

But Dimacuha, who belongs to the Liberal Party, said there was no cheating.

"Ask all the people at the canvassing area if they saw me there last night and they will all tell you the same thing: I never went there. If they saw me there, then they could accuse me of cheating, but I was never there and I never had a hand in the canvassing. Why should I? I was already winning," Dimacuha said.

Loser

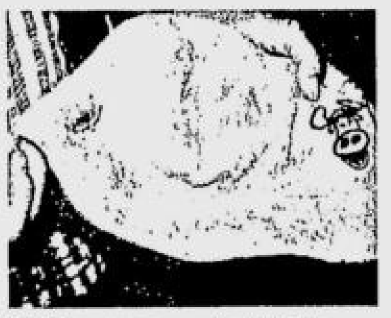
He said the organized protest rallies are just the reaction of the people who can't accept that they are losing.

Jun Aguila, city election officer, said they had to stop the canvassing to compare the canvassed returns with those of the actual precincts. "The solution is to open the ballot boxes and identify which ERs are missing," Aguila said.

People started coming and the atmosphere started to heat up outside the city hall, when people accused the Comelec and Dimacuha of fraud and threatened them of an uprising should Chavez lose.

The streets near the city hall, which had been cordoned off by the Comelec and the city police since Saturday, have been mobbed by people who came in jeeps from different barangays, while a truckload of Army soldiers came to guard the area.

After waiting from morning till afternoon for the lawyers of Lakas mayoral candidate Ruel "Wawing" Chavez to arrive, this city's board of canvassers was finally able to agree to open the 27 ballot boxes in search of the two missing returns only to find out that seven were really missing.



THE INQUIRER cap that Pedro Gonzales, Anakpawis chair in Quezon, wore that showed the entry point of the bullet that killed him.
DELFIN MALLARI JR./PDI SOUTHERN LUZON BUREAU

In Tiagon, Quezon, former mayor Ben Escueta said incumbent town Mayor Leleng Umali defeated him through massive fraud and vote-buying.

"My lawyers are now seriously considering the filing of pre-proclamation protest. There was rampant cheating in the last elections. They also tampered with election returns to suit their scheming designs just to win at all costs," Escueta said.

Umali, however, said Escueta just could not accept defeat. "I lost to him in the 1988, 1992 and 1995 mayoral elections, why can't he accept his defeat this time," he said.

Dilatory tactics

He added that the canvassing ended at around 3 p.m., yesterday "after all the dilatory tactics of Escueta's lawyers."

"I won by at least 1,895 votes against my opponent," Umali said.

Bayan Muna Rep. Satur Ocampo said they were seriously considering the filing of a petition to declare a failure of elections in Oriental Mindoro due to widespread cases of harassment, disenfranchised votes and vote-buying in Mangyan communities.

"Some 10,000 Mangyans were reportedly herded two to three days before the elections by a certain candidate and were given food. On election day 'writers' employed by the same candidate were assigned to write down their votes on their behalf," Ocampo said in a statement.

Venturanza's poll watchers were also reportedly harassed by the military, according to Ocampo.

Harassment

Ocampo has accused the military in the province for alleged harassment and meddling in the conduct of last Monday's elections to favor certain candidates and disenfranchise votes for their party-list group.

Quoting field reports from its local chapters in the province, Ocampo said the checkpoints set up by the military in at least four towns prevented many of their supporters from casting their ballots last Monday.

Ocampo said the incidents took place in known bailiwicks of the party-list group in Naujan, Mansalay, Baco and Roxas towns.

He said the result was a low turnout of voters as only some 210,000 of the province's 344,000 registered voters, or 61 percent, were able to cast their votes. *Mei Magsino and Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

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Political clans crumble, . . .

From page A10

The first to be proclaimed on Monday were incumbent Mayor Fortunato Javelosa and Vice Mayor Leo Rafael Maranon Cueva of Sagay City.

On Tuesday, it was the turn of Mayor Manuel Escalante III and Vice Mayor Agnes Garcia of Manapla town to be proclaimed by the Comelec.

Vice Mayor Laurence Marxlen dela Cruz of Don Salvador Benedicto town was proclaimed winner Wednesday.

Elections provincial supervisor Marsha Cordero said two more unopposed candidates—reelectionist Mayor Jerry Tabujara of Cauayan town and Gerardo Valmayor, vice mayoral candidate in San Carlos City—were scheduled to be proclaimed today.

Yesterday, the Comelec proclaimed winners in four towns—Don Salvador Benedicto, Pulupandan, San Enrique and EB Magalona.

Incumbent Mayor Cynthia de la Cruz (Lakas CMD-NPC) won in Don Salvador Benedicto town. She got 5,393 votes over her opponent Douglas Esperancilla (Aksyon Demokratiko) who had 1,281 votes. Her son, incumbent Vice Mayor Laurence Marxlen dela Cruz, who was unopposed, had 5,146 votes.

In Pulupandan, the nephew and uncle team of Suatengco lost to the group of Luis Mondia.

Mondia, who was proclaimed winner yesterday, got 8,380 votes over his rival Anthony Gerard Suatengco's 4,938. Mondia's running mate Julia Seminio got 7,107 votes over her opponent, incumbent Mayor Antonio Suatengco, who had 5,756 votes.

In EB Magalona, Alfonso Gamboa was proclaimed mayor, while David Lacson won as vice mayor. Gamboa had 12,783 votes over his opponent Romulo Rhoel Mogul's 10,243, while Lacson had 13,239 votes against his closest rival, Nemesio Lamonte (5,330 votes). *Jhunnex Napallacan and Carla P. Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Mindanao, ARMM votes awaited

RESULTS from Mindanao and the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao were expected to boost the rankings of senatorial candidates who are lagging in early vote counting.

Sen. Robert Jaworski, who is running for another term, said in a statement that he expected additional votes from these areas to improve his ranking in the Senate race.

He also expressed confidence in making it to the Magic 12.

He asked the public to just wait for official results.

"It's a long way to the finish line," he said.

Jaworski ranked 16th in partial, unofficial tallies.

He asked his supporters to maintain vigilance against attempts to manipulate results.

In 1998, when he first ran for senator, Jaworski got 30.4 percent of all votes cast in the Senate race.

Regions 6, 10 and 12 and the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao gave 20 percent of their votes to Jaworski that year.

He said he expected the support given him by various party-list groups to secure at least 20 percent of the groups' votes for him.

Jaworski's statement said he got 43 percent in the National Capital Region, 47 percent in Central Luzon and 48 percent in Region 4 in 1998.

"I expect the same this time, or at least a performance not very far from these figures," Jaworski said. "The truth will come out."

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Fire hits Lanao village; 4 kids missing

MALABANG, Lanao del Sur—At least four children, aged 2-4, could not be located in the aftermath of the more than four-hour fire that hit several villages here on Wednesday, authorities said Thursday.

Insp. Randal Bueno, town police chief, however, said they were optimistic that the children, whose identities were not immediately available, are alive and are only being kept in houses of concerned residents.

More than 500 houses, mostly made of light materials, were razed after the fire, caused by an explosion of an LPG cylinder midday Wednesday, broke out and spread to at least three villages here.

Bueno said some 2,000 families, mostly relatives of reelectionist Mayor Anwar Balindong, have been displaced by the fire that caused a damage of around P20 million.

Earlier reports said the fire was deliberate but arson investigators later said it was caused by an accident.

SFO3 Aminola Udasan, Malabang fire investigating chief, said a burning stove left in one of the houses overheated and then triggered the fire. He did not specify which house the fire started in but said the fire was definitely not politically motivated.

Balindong's rival is his own brother, lawyer Lumala.

As of late yesterday afternoon, the displaced families, some of whom went to as far as Marawi City, have not been given assistance yet. *Rosa-May V. de Guzman, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

SIFTING through the debris of one of the homes destroyed in the four-hour fire in Malabang, Lanao del Sur.

RYAN LIM/PDI MINDANAO BUREAU

ELEKSYON 2004

Twists, turns in local races

THE RACE for elective positions in the provinces has taken twists and turns and from them came some surprising and not-so-surprising results. Here are some of them:

- Luis "Chavit" Singson, the whistleblower in the Juetengate scandal that led to the downfall of former President Joseph Estrada, reclaims his old post as governor of Ilocos Sur.
- Reelectionist Zambales Rep. Ruben Torres, a former executive secretary during the administration of former President Fidel Ramos, is trailing in the congressional race in the second district behind Antonio Diaz and Edwin Mendaros.
- Former Press Secretary Hernani Braganza appears headed to take the mayoral seat in Alaminos City in Pangasinan over Arturo Garcia.
- Luis and Teresita Victoria Agbayani, children of the late former Pangasinan Gov. Aguedo Agbayani, lose in their respective political races. Luis loses to reelectionist Rep. Arthur Celeste in Pangasinan's first district while Victoria, a professional singer, loses to John Arcinue in the mayoral race in Sual town. Their brother, Gov. Victor Agbayani is reelected.
- Henedina Abad, wife of outgoing Batanes Rep. Florencio Abad, affirms the supremacy of the decades-old rule of the Abads in the northernmost island province of Batanes by winning the lone congressional district race there.
- Reelectionist Ifugao Gov. Teodoro Baguilat Jr. loses to former Ifugao Rep. Benjamin Cappleman in the gubernatorial race.
- Outgoing Benguet Gov. Raul Molintas concedes defeat to incumbent Rep. Samuel Dangwa in the lone congressional district race in Benguet.
- The Marcoses firm up hold in Ilocos Norte as Comelec proclaims reelected Gov. Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. and his sister Rep. Imee Marcos.
- Mark Lapid, son of outgoing Pampanga Gov. Manuel "Lito" Lapid, is leading three candidates for governor of Pampanga. His opponents are Representatives Zenaida Cruz-Ducut and Juan Pablo Bondoc.
- Former Immigration Commissioner Andrea Domingo is trailing outgoing Rep. Oscar Rodriguez in the mayoral race of the City of San Fernando.
- Outgoing Olongapo Mayor Katherine Gordon loses to Ma. Milagros Magsaysay in the first congressional district race in Zambales. Gordon and Magsaysay belong to political families who have ruled Zambales politics since the 1950s and 1960s.
- Opposition candidate Braulio Yaranon beats reelectionist Baguio Mayor Bernardo Vergara, who has conceded defeat.
- Ignacio Arroyo Jr., President Macapagal-Arroyo's brother-in-law, is apparently headed for a big win in the 5th district congressional race of Negros.

Partial results from the National Citizens Movement for Free Elections (Namfrel) yesterday showed that Arroyo was ahead by 3,766 votes over his closest opponent, former board member Alejandro Mirasol.

Namfrel figures showed that Arroyo had 9,069 votes and Mirasol, 5,303 votes. Incumbent Rep. Jose Apolinario was tailing with 3,579 votes.

Arroyo had claimed ownership of the controversial Jose Pidal accounts.

- In Albay, Raul S. Roco, led the presidential candidates with 164,058 votes, with President Macapagal-Arroyo coming second at 137,369.
- Seen winners for the congressional districts are Edcel C. Lagman, first; Carlos R. Imperial, second; and Jose Ma. Clemente Salceda, third.
- For governor, Ligao City mayor Fernando Gonzales was leading Alfonso P. Bichara, father of incumbent governor Al Francis Bichara, by about 32,500 votes.
- Rep. Willy Villarama of Bulacan has conceded defeat to his erstwhile unknown opponent, Pedro Pancho.

"It was a great honor to have served the seven historic towns in the second district," he said in a statement.

"My goal was to abolish a culture of dependency and to help make the people—especially the poor—more self reliant, independent and economically productive. I believe I have succeeded to a large degree in that endeavor."

- In Laguna, the results of voting point to the defeat of several incumbents, among them Gov. Teresita Lazaro trailing actor Dan Fernandez by about 3,000 votes.
- San Pablo City mayor Florante Aquino is beaten by Vicente Amante by a landslide.
- Incumbent Victoria, Laguna mayor Renato Rebong is suffering defeat over doctor Dwight Kampitan.
- In Mabitac town, incumbent mayor Apollo Aguilar faces defeat against opponent Gerardo Pader, a relative of a slain former mayor.
- As of noon Wednesday, the Namfrel tabulation in Camarines Sur for the gubernatorial race showed that Luis Raymund got 71,975; incumbent Rep. Felix William "Wimpy" Fuentebela, 49,402 and Emmanuel Alfelor, 22,906.
- Erin Tañada, son of former Senator Wigberto Tañada, virtually ran unchallenged in the 4th district of Quezon when incumbent Rep. Georgilou Yumol opted to return to private life. *Reports from PDI Northern Luzon Bureau and Central Luzon Desk; Carla Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau; Delfin Mallari Jr, Romulo Ponte, Gil Francis Arevalo, Juan Escandor Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau; Narcy Ariola and Rubemar Mesa, contributors*

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Church suspends winning priest

From page A10

disqualification "those sentenced by final judgment for an offense involving moral turpitude for an offense punishable by one year or more of imprisonment."

Although Cayat was scheduled to be stricken off the candidates' list, the priest appealed the ruling, allowing him to run on May 10 while his case is pending.

Lengthy process

Now that he won, lawyers monitoring Cayat's case said the priest would now undergo a disqualification procedure for proclaimed candidates, "which is a different and very long process."

Cayat admitted his guilt to the late Judge Bernardo Bueno, who convicted him on Oct. 13, 2003. Five days later, Bueno died but not before he granted Cayat's petition for probation.

"There is something very strange (about Cayat's legal case), because the judge died (right after convicting him) ... and now he insisted on running for office," Cosalan said.

The Baguio vicar said Cayat last met the Commission of the Clergy in March, where he was dissuaded from pursuing his political ambitions.

"He told us that he wanted to serve the people, but we advised him that serving the priesthood was infinitely more fruitful than a three-year political term ... We are fearful that the lifestyle would change him," Cosalan said.

Elsewhere in Central Luzon, former Land Bank of the Philippines president Jesli Lapus has retained his seat as representative of the third district of Tarlac with a single vote.

A TAHO vendor seizes the opportunity for a good sale as he moves his ware nearer a polling precinct in Baguio City. VINCENT CABREZA/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

First time

Lapus made history in the last elections as the first representative of his district to run unopposed. Even as this was so, he said he still ended up "sleepless with a hoarse voice and broke."

But unlike his past two terms, Lapus can choose when to go to the Commission on Elections and have himself proclaimed the winner.

As leader of the district, Lapus said he had to address all sorts of problems and concerns coming from his local leaders during and after the campaign.

The demand for his presence and time in his district was just like he had an opponent, he said.

"(But being unopposed,) I was able to see things more objectively because the level of emotion was not as high as when one had an opponent. There is less passion and you become more objective in analyzing things," he said.

In his final term, Lapus said he would focus more on the "macro." He said the most important item on his list is supporting constitutional change and overhauling the Commission on Elections.

Inefficiency

The last elections, he said, brought out many things, among these is the "inefficiency" of the Comelec.

"The origin of legitimacy of a democratic government rests on a constitutional body like the Comelec. But this election is another one of Comelec's traditional inefficiencies," he said.

"It is no longer a question of what has gone wrong but a question of what went right," he added.

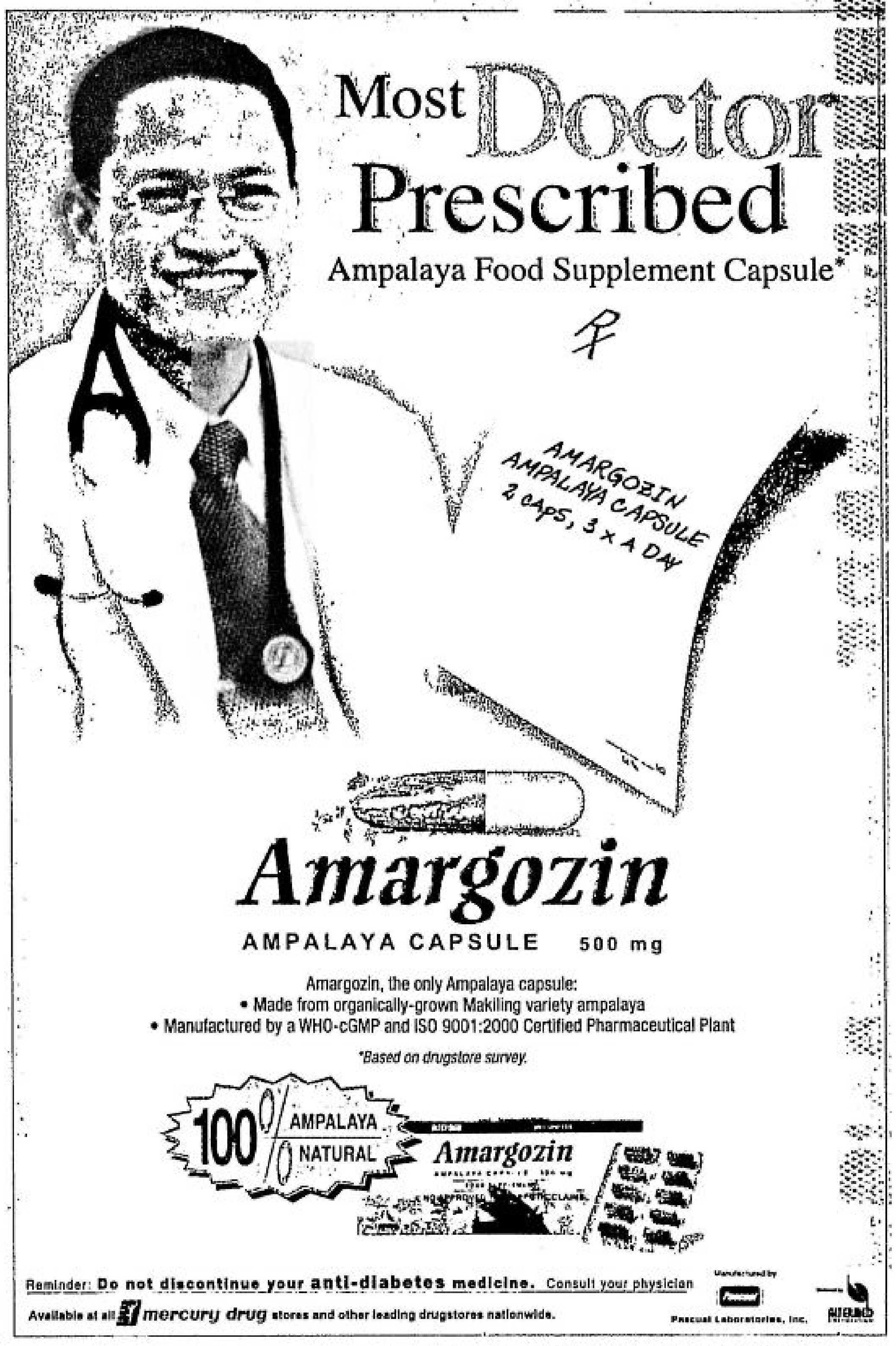
Lapus said the Comelec had been very lenient in the conduct of the past elections.

"There was leniency and tolerance, they couldn't even impose the right poster sizes. There is inefficiency. Nationwide, on the eve of elections, we get reports that it looked like fiestas in the barangays, people were out in the streets waiting (for doleouts). It was sickening," he said.

He said if this conduct of elections continues, "we will see a lot of well-meaning candidates losing interest and we leave politics to 'characters' who could stomach the kind of elections we have."

Lapus said the Comelec should be overhauled in terms of "management, system, integrity."

"The conduct of a clean and honest elections is managerial. We need a Comelec with good management with legal support, not legal supported by management. This should be one of the urgent concerns we should do when we make changes in our Constitution," he said.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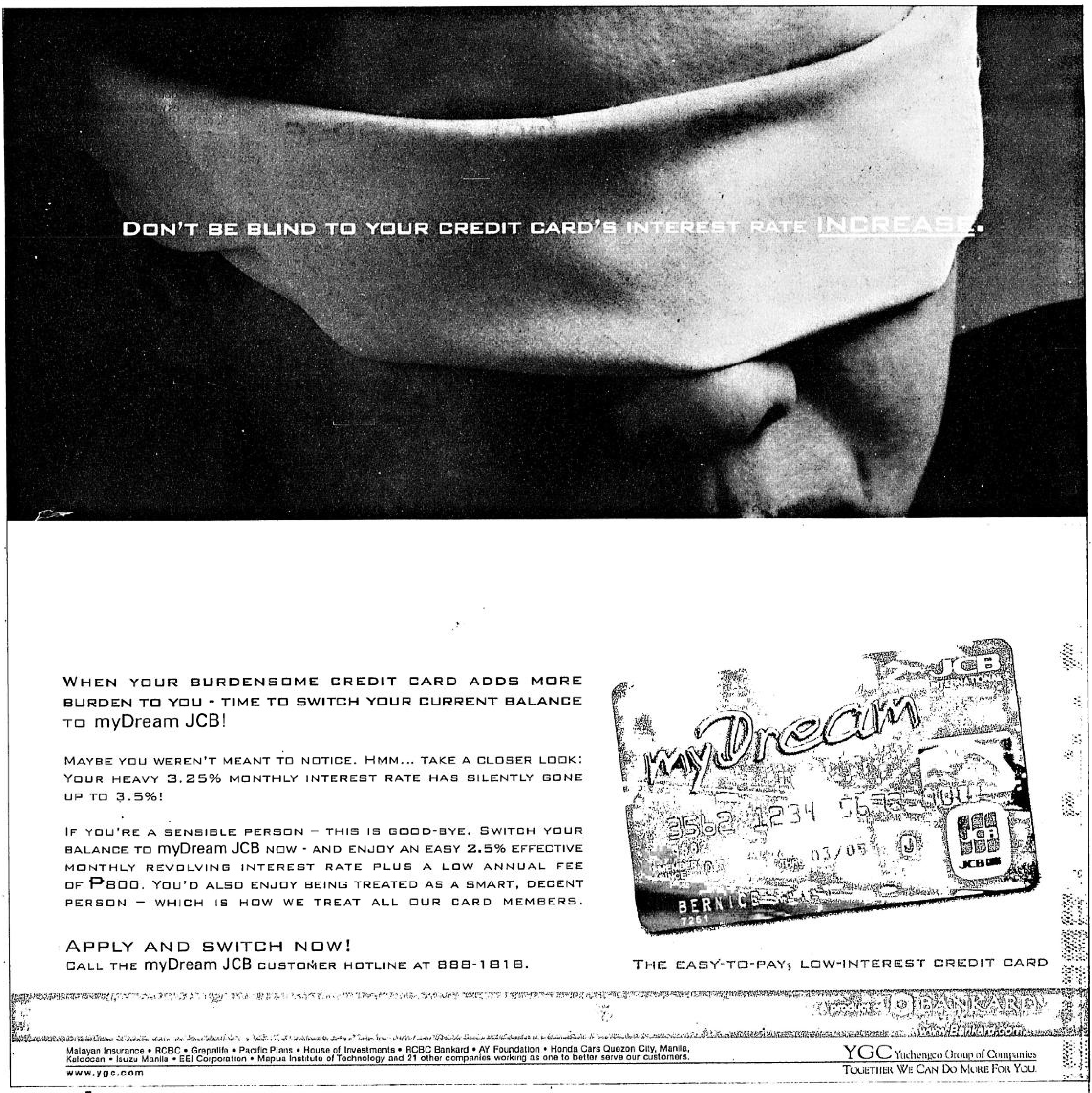

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OPINION

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Blame game

EDITORIAL

DE facto Comelec Chief Resurreccion Borra's favorite word of late is "candid." He has been spending the last couple of days trying to downplay criticism of the Commission on Elections. He argues that talk of widespread disenfranchisement of voters is exaggerated. While he admits there were Comelec-caused lapses, due to the failed precinct-mapping and registration efforts, he maintains that the public should accept its fair share of the blame. People simply gave up too easily, he says, and were all too prepared to simply give up the moment obstacles got in the way of voting.

By all means, let us be candid, as Borra says. It is probably true that some of those complaining about not being able to vote lacked the will to do all that could be done to cast their ballots. However, to be candid means to be frank, and that means letting the chips fall where they may. And that means, primarily on the lap of the Comelec.

The Comelec, Borra has also been telling the media, was saddled by lack of resources. A lack due to, among many things, the inability (or refusal) of Congress to pass a national budget for this year. This fact, though, ignores another series of facts, which is that the Comelec wasted billions and billions of pesos on schemes that resulted in a confused electoral exercise last Monday. If the Comelec hadn't blithely pursued schemes that ignored the law, if it hadn't been hard-headed and insisted on its flawed plans instead of scrupulously following the law, it would have had more money and greater public support.

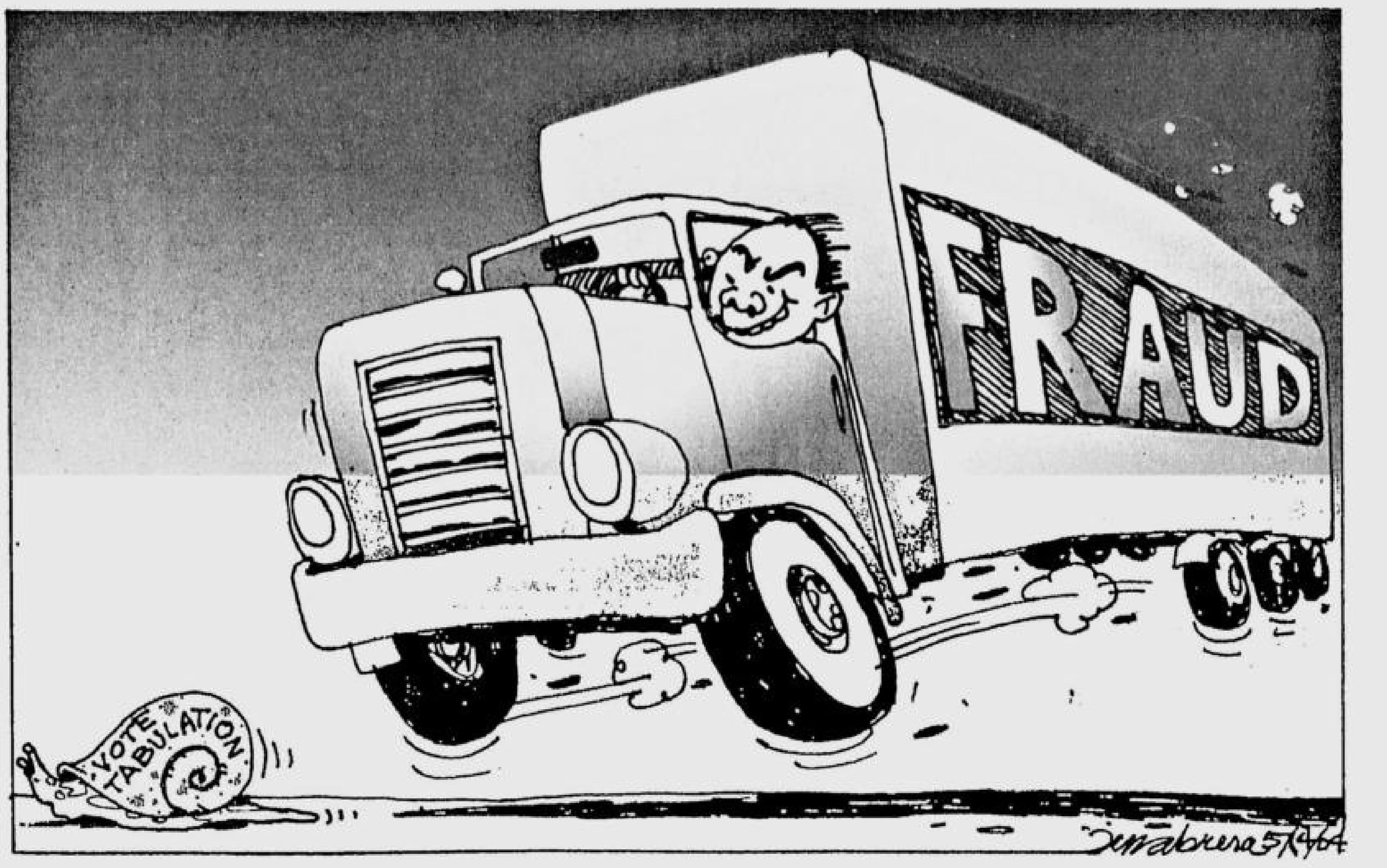
It would also be in a far more favorable position vis-à-vis the public and politicians than it finds itself in today. At present, the Comelec suffers from the widely accepted view that it has introduced uncertainty and doubt into a process for which it had ample time to prepare. The very question of just how many were unable to vote is one that is going to nag it for weeks to come. The truth is, no one knows exactly how many were unable to vote because they were struck off the lists. The Social Weather Stations, according to Mahar Mangahas, in its exit poll estimates that the disenfranchised represents 20 percent of those who didn't vote for whatever reason. This, however, is a number based on a survey, when both the Comelec and Namfrel say the only way to find out how many actually didn't vote is to find out exactly how many voted. This early in the counting, no one, either officially or unofficially, can really say.

The Comelec, then, is wrong in trying to put the blame on voters for being unable to vote. The point is that it is the Comelec's duty to make voting an efficient process—and to make it a credible process. In the absence of hard figures, all that prevents politicians on both sides of the aisle from making irresponsible and dangerous assertions is the public's unwillingness to accept unsupported charges.

What is happening is that the country is now subjected to the kind of suspense it doesn't need. The suspense lies in waiting to see just what sort of evidence—or a lack of it—the opposition can muster in support of its claims of wholesale fraud. As well as to see if the government—of which the Comelec is part, and discouragingly so—can refute such claims with evidence of its own. To its credit, the public is taking a wait-and-see attitude. It is refusing, perhaps out of fatigue, to take the claims of cheating or fairly clean polls, at face value.

This attitude puts the Comelec on the defensive. It is in the same situation as the fellow at the bottom of a ravine, waiting to see if shouting would result in a landslide. Its independence already doubted from the start, it is hard put to prove its impartiality as it mimics the Macapagal administration's effort to mask its dread of possible political unrest with cheerful rhetoric.

The dread is palpable. Tuesday's half-baked gathering of supporters of opposition presidential candidate Fernando Poe Jr. in Makati has resulted in a renewed siege mentality in Malacañang. Troops have been called to Manila, and the moves of both Poe's supporters and Bro. Eddie Villanueva's are being closely watched. This weekend promises either a renewal of the opposition's incendiary rhetoric, or a subsiding of tensions if no weekend rally occurs. Either way, the Comelec will find itself bearing the brunt of the blame game: a game it shouldn't have participated in, much less inspired, in the first place.



And they call the polls 'peaceful'?

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

"THE ELECTIONS were generally peaceful," said President Macapagal-Arroyo.

"The elections were peaceful," said PNP Director General Hermogenes Ebdane.

"The polls were peaceful," said Comelec Commissioner Resurreccion Borra.

How can they lie so barefacedly and still face their countrymen?

A total of 202 persons were killed in election-related violence and they call that "peaceful"? That's more than the number of American GIs killed since the war in Iraq began. That's the highest number of election fatalities in the Philippines in history, higher even than the death toll in the violence-wracked snap election of 1986 which saw the Marcos family and cronies chased by angry citizens out of the country. (Comparative figures from other elections: 1986, 93 dead; 1992, 56; 1995, 83; 1998, 87; 2001, 111)

But these top officials of our government said the elections were peaceful and, to echo Marc Anthony, "surely they are honorable men." Could it be that what they meant was that the 202 victims are now "resting in peace"?

No wonder the international observers sent here to watch our elections were "shocked" by the violence. "Even as we (applaud) the high turnout of voters, we are appalled at the incidence of violence and fraud," said Margot Hoyte of Australia. "These contravene certain claims that the elections were generally peaceful and without violence."

"Another thing that bothered me a lot was the fact that there was so much violence going on during the time of elections," said Laura Brune of Germany, "and people seem to accept the fact that people get killed and harassed."

"I have a tough time understanding that mind-set where a government position as small as mayor or vice mayor or even barangay councilor is worth the lives of other people," said American Hana Johnson.

Another American, Rebecca Lawson, chimed in: "Genuine democracy does not allow the physical elimination of the opposition, the killing of campaigners and candidates."

But Ms Macapagal, Ebdane and Borra said the elections were "peaceful," even if our ears, eyes and common sense say they were not. So what has happened to our top leaders? Have they become blind and deaf suddenly? Are they living in a different world? No, they're living in the same real world that we are. It's just that they are no longer "honorable."

"Peaceful." Tell that to the wives and children and other family members of those killed. Tell that to the rest of the Filipinos who still have their common sense. Tell that to your consciences.

Understandably, these three government officials blissfully unaware of what is going on before them, are the three most responsible for the peaceful conduct of the elections. Borra of the Comelec is responsible for the conduct of the elections. Ebdane is chief of the national police whose principal duty is to keep the polls peaceful. (What happened to the gun ban? How come so many goons were able to carry the guns with which they killed their victims?) And Ms Macapagal is the big cheese who has the power and authority to use all government agencies to assure peaceful elections. But she used all those government power, authority—and resources—to assure her reelection, not peaceful elections. To paraphrase Shakespeare again, "Ambition, they name is woman."

* * *

Another person who was shocked by events was Mexican Juan Manuel Marquez, the WBA and IBF featherweight champion. He was so shocked by the power of Manny Pacquiao that he refuses to give the Filipino a rematch although such a grudge fight is called for and would earn everybody—boxers, managers, promoters, TV networks—million-dollar purses. He knows that the next time around, Pacquiao would knock him out.

Pacquiao almost did it in the first round of their May 9 bout when Marquez was decked three times, except that the three-knockdown rule was not in force. If it had been, Marquez would have been an ex-champion now and Pacquiao the new double featherweight champion via a first round knockout. Marquez was able to eke out a draw by the skin of his teeth only because promoters, managers and gamblers controlled boxing in Nevada. Everybody knows that boxing is the most crooked of all sports, has always been and still is.

One of the three judges admitted that he made a mistake in scoring the first round 10-7 for Pacquiao instead of 10-6, thus having a final tally of 113-113, a draw. If he had scored that round correctly, the tally would have been 113-112 for Pacquiao, making him the winner.

Another mystery is why another judge scored it 115-110 for Marquez while the third judge scored it exactly the opposite, 115-110 for Pacquiao. Also, the referee made a long count the third time Marquez was floored, giving him time to get up.

Maybe nothing will come of it, considering how corrupt boxing is, but Pacquiao's managers should pursue the protest with the WBA and IBF. World opinion is on his side. The least that should be done in the name of justice and fair play is to force Marquez to give Pacquiao a rematch.

* * *

There are many complaints against the conduct of elections all over the country, but I have only high praises for the teachers and Comelec officials in Culiat High School in Quezon City where I voted. I think their efficiency should be acknowledged in the face of widespread complaints. It took me only 10 minutes to vote at about 11:30 a.m. last May 10.

There were no campaign workers handing out sample ballots inside the school compound. Members of the Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting looked at their records for my precinct number. I went there and voted, and was out of there in 10 minutes.

Rising from the dead in Payatas

COMMENTARY

John J. Carroll, S.J.
Institute on Church and Social Issues

BACK in the 1980s, aside from being the site of a garbage dump, Payatas was also a dumping ground for dead bodies: salvage victims and gang war victims. On separate Sunday morning visits there to say Mass, I saw bodies—seven in all—dumped along the road: one ice-picked, one shot, two beheaded, and three with their throats cut. The residents were not particularly disturbed by this, saying that they were all "*taga labas* (outsiders)" and noting that many of them had tattoos, suggesting that they were criminals.

Death came closer to home, however, one Sunday morning when a family asked me to bless a spot outside its house where a neighbor had bled to death the night before. He had been shot and had run to their house for help, but they were afraid to open the door and let him in.

Then, of course, there was the "trash-fall" of July 2000, when a mountain of garbage collapsed on a number of shanties belonging to scavengers. In the wake of the accident, 219 bodies were recovered, and no one knows how many more remain entombed in the filth.

Again there are the infants, dozens of them over the years, dead of bronchial pneumonia or measles after being weakened by malnutrition.

And finally the living dead, the wraith-like figures on the garbage dump, scavenging at night by lantern light amid the acrid smoke and smell, with their great wicker baskets on their backs. And men, seemingly defeated by life, too old or unskilled to get work and turning to drink; and the out-of-school youth likewise unable to find jobs and going into drugs.

But if death is a familiar visitor at Payatas, life and hope are there as well, like the wild flowers pushing their way up through the dirt and dead grass when the new rains begin to fall.

This was symbolized recently when the newly ordained Fr. Miguel Pineda celebrated his first Mass in the new chapel at Nazareno. As a seminarian and then as a deacon, Father "Mike" had been going to Payatas regularly every Sunday. He is well known and loved in the community. Many of its residents had gone to the Ateneo the day before to share in the joy of his ordination. Their only regret was that now he would be leaving them for his new assignment as prison chaplain at the New Bilibid Prisons in Muntinlupa. But Father Mike's predecessors in the work at Payatas, who themselves have gone on to other assignments, Fathers R.V. Hizon and Chris Dumadag, as well as Fr. Toni Kurmann, were there for the occasion—proof that they will always be a part of Payatas and Payatas a part of them.

The spanking new chapel, tall and concrete and brilliantly white in the morning sun, with a fine altar newly installed, was testimony to the vitality and hope of the community (which is paying gradually for the land), as well as to the generosity of benefactors. Building it has been a long and often discouraging process, which included difficult negotiations with the former landowner and an ongoing problem with a neighbor who has built a wall which makes access to the chapel difficult. Yet the community has remained firm over the three years of negotiations, appeals to City Hall, and construction. It is their chapel, and something of which they are rightly proud. And they will not give up until that wall is removed.

If the new chapel and the community *handa* which followed were symbols of life and hope, the source lies deeper: in the resilience of many of the community members and in the generous assistance of outsiders. I have written before of our milk-feeding program for third-degree malnourished infants, which handles 80 of them at a time and more than 500 a year, funded entirely by donations from outside. Aside from protecting the physical health and brain development of these infants, the program gives hope to the mothers as they realize that someone cares about their children.

Riding on the feeding program now is a natural family planning program, helping parents to have the number of children which they want and can support. Among the mothers also, the Jesuit scholastic Art Tangara and Sr. Leticia delos Santos, R.S.M. are conducting prayer sessions, during which the women often tearfully recount their struggles and pains and gain support from each other as well as greater confidence in the Lord.

Finally there is our scholarship program, which is currently supporting or assisting almost 50 young people in professional or technical courses. We are proud of the fact that four of our first group of technical students are now working at the Naia as airplane mechanics for Lufthansa. And we are hoping that the current batch of 40 young men and women, studying with the Don Bosco fathers and sisters, will find steady jobs.

Recently the girl scholars sent me some very thoughtful gifts and a carefully written letter expressing their thanks for our help. Actually the thanks should go to the many kind persons who have contributed and continue to contribute to the work.

And to those who would like to assist, I say that the need is great and we are running down our reserves. Anyone who would like to help can reach me by phone at 426-6144 or by mail at the Institute on Church and Social Issues, P.O. Box 250, UP Post Office, 1144, Quezon City.

Inciting the mob

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

IMPULSIVE segments of the opposition pressed the trigger last Tuesday over the election results before the powder was dry. As a result, the act backfired on them. Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay launched a demonstration to protest alleged "trending" of the unofficial tabulation, barely a day after the closing of the polls on Monday. Fernando Poe Jr. jumped into the act by denouncing alleged election fraud.

It was not clear to the rabble what that they were being mobilized for. Opposition circles did not know if the Makati rally was being held to celebrate Binay's expected win as mayor of Makati City or Fernando Poe Jr.'s victory over President Macapagal-Arroyo.

At that stage of the unofficial tabulation, the figures coming in indicated a see-saw battle. Even before the votes had been fully counted, the Poe forces were already "celebrating" an imagined victory. The opposition was celebrating on the basis of its own exit polls and proclaiming victory.

Poe himself fanned the opposition's rage with a sweeping denunciation of election fraud, based on his perception of "trending." The accusation blew in his face because early random unofficial results tabulated by AMA and ABS-CBN saw the lead changing during the first two days. So the wild and reckless accusation of "trending" exploded in the opposition's face. Who was "trending" for whom?

Some people forgot that the unofficial quick counts as well as Namfrel's were being done by non-government and independent organizations and they were tabulating returns on the basis of which came first to their tabulating centers. When he denounced alleged fraud by the administration, Poe ignored the fact that some of his own candidates such as Sen. Aquilino Pimentel and Juan Ponce Enrile were among the first six in the senatorial election. So who was trending the returns for Pimentel and Enrile?

Then on the second day of tabulation by Namfrel, Poe was slightly ahead of President Macapagal. Was he then complaining against trending in a tabulation that was in his favor?

More sensible and mature heads in the opposition did not join Poe's nervous fit. Pimentel called for calm, and Sen. Panfilo Lacson distanced himself from the Makati "protest" or "celebration" rally, saying that the primary task of the opposition candidates was to see to it that they were not cheated. Lacson said that those who couldn't protect their votes didn't deserve to win.

If Binay and his cohorts reckoned that their rally would kick up a mass demonstration that would unleash People Power 3, they miscalculated the people's response. The ordinary people are much more intelligent than rabble-rousers imagine them to be. They require more evidence than angry denunciations by candidates who are in danger of losing the election.

The Makati rally was ill-timed and based on the false assumption that it would generate a spontaneous combustion against those who are alleged to be manipulating the tabulation or rigging the election. And while Poe was losing his nerves and balance, by contrast the President held her dignity by accepting what the unofficial count said from day to day.

Impugning the informal tabulation even before the bulk of the returns has been counted and before the official Commission on Elections count is completed will not change the final results. When Binay and Poe tried to fuel another people power revolt amid the counting, they interfered with a democratic process. The process calls for the returns to be counted, although it may take some weeks to complete, and the unofficial tabulation is part of that process. They are inciting a return to mob rule in an election that is precisely a mechanism to put an end to the habit of mobilizing the mob to force leadership change, snatching that function out of the hands of the voters.

Binay and Poe want to impose their own rules in the political process called election. They have not shown sufficient respect for the process. Since they can't go by the rules and can't wait for official results to be determined, they have no right to compete in open elections where there are independent referees. They should wait and give the process a chance to determine the winners. They are not merely acting like sore losers. Their actions can have dangerous implications.

The attempt to turn baseless grievances into a launching pad for another people power revolt recalls the ill-fated and failed Oakwood mutiny. The mutiny collapsed because it was based on the assumption that once the attack was launched by the disgruntled junior officers, it would become the signal for the mobs to swarm to the streets to show mass support for the plotters. The expected civilian component support never materialized, partly because the mutiny was contained and partly because there was hardly any support from civilians. The masses, no matter how much they were disenchanted with the government, could not and did not identify with the mutineers' grievances, .i.e. the alleged corruption in the Armed Forces.

Any attempt to launch another mass demonstration, especially in Makati, on the basis of wild allegations of massive election fraud is bound to fizzle out. Binay failed to mobilize the Makati rabble during Edsa 2 behind Joseph Estrada. There is no reason he will be successful this time when there is no hard constituency to agitate and unleash in the streets to protest imagined wholesale fraud. With the election process in full swing, the public is prepared to wait for the official results, no matter how long it takes.

Carnage of women

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

BY THE TIME you read this, I will be in the United States, in the company of family, primarily to attend the wedding of my niece Cesi, daughter of my sister Chona and Willy Cruz, both of them professional staff of the World Bank in Washington, D.C.

The wedding will be held later this month in Montreal, so aside from coming together with our Stateside relatives in a family event, we're all looking forward to our first visit to Canada and especially to Montreal, which we're told is like a "little Europe" in the New World.

Meantime, while I'm crossing datelines, let me share with you excerpts from the keynote speech of Stephen Lewis, UN Special Envoy on HIV/AIDS in Africa, at the Microbicides 2004 Conference held in London, on "Women and AIDS." The address has been described as "sobering," but I'm hoping women, and men as well, finish reading Lewis' words not sobered but worked up, enraged if possible. To learn why, read on:

* * *

I'VE been in the envoy job for nearly three years. If there is one constant throughout that time, a large part of which has been spent traversing the African continent, it is the thus-far irreversible vulnerability of women. It goes without saying that the virus has targeted women with a raging and twisted Darwinian ferocity. It goes equally without saying that gender inequality is what sustains and nurtures the virus, ultimately causing women to be infected in ever greater disproportionate numbers.

And the numbers tell a story. It was the report issued by UNAIDS on the eve of the International AIDS Conference in Barcelona in 2002 that identified the startling percentages of infected women. And it was during a panel, at the same conference, when Carol Bellamy of Unicef used a phrase—for the first time in my hearing—that was to become a repetitive mantra: "AIDS has a woman's face."

But the problem is that the phenomenon of women's acute vulnerability did not happen overnight. It grew relentlessly over the 20 years of the pandemic. What should shock us all, what should stop us in our tracks, is how long it took to focus the world on what was happening. Why wasn't the trend identified so much earlier? Why, when it emerged in cold statistical print did not the emergency alarm bells ring out in the narrative text which accompanied the numbers? Why has it taken up to 2004—more than 20 years down the epidemiological road—to put in place a Global Coalition on Women and AIDS? Why was it only in 2003 that a UN Task Force on the plight of women in Southern Africa was appointed to do substantive work? Why have we allowed a continuing pattern of sexual carnage among young women so grave as to lose an entire generation of women and girls?

* * *

PONDER this set of figures if you will: In 2003, Botswana did a new sentinel site study to establish HIV prevalence, male and female, among all age groups. In urban areas, for young women and girls, ages 15 to 19, the prevalence rate was 15.4 percent. For young men and boys of the same age, it was 1.2 percent. For young women between 20 and 24, the rate was 29.7 percent. For young men of that age it was 8.4 percent. For young women between the ages of 25 and 29, the rate was 54.1 percent (it boggles the mind); for young men of the same age, it was 29.7 percent.

Have I not addressed the fundamental question? The reason we have observed—and still observe—without taking decisive action on this wanton attack on women is because it's women. You know it and I know it. The African countries themselves, the major external powers, the influential bilateral donors, even my beloved United Nations... no one shouted from the rhetorical rooftops, no one called an international conference and said what in God's name is going on, even though it felt in the 1990s that all we ever had time for were international conferences. It amounts to the ultimate vindication of the feminist analysis. When the rights of women are involved, the world goes into reverse.

For more than 20 years, the numbers of infected women grew exponentially, so that now virtually half the infections in the world are among women, and in Africa it stands at 58 percent, rising to 67 percent between the ages of 15 and 24. This is a cataclysm, plain and simple. We are depopulating parts of the continent of its women.

* * *

AND while finally, after the doomsday clock has passed midnight, we're starting to be engaged and agitated, very little is changing.

Please believe me: On the ground, where women live and die, very little is changing. Everything takes so excruciatingly long when we're responding to the needs and rights of women.

Between three and four years ago, I visited the well-known pre-natal health clinic in Kigali, Rwanda. I met with three women who had decided to take a course of nevirapine; they were excited and hopeful, but they asked a poignant question which haunts me to this day: They said, "We'll do anything to save our babies, but what about us?" Back then, more than four years after antiretrovirals were in widespread use in the West, we simply watched the mothers die.

Well, thanks to the Columbia School of Public Health, funded by several foundations and USAID, and working with the Elizabeth Glazer Foundation, Unicef and governments, the strategy of PMTCT PLUS (Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission Plus) has been carefully put into place in several countries, where the "Plus" represents treatment of the mothers and partners; indeed, of the entire family. But it's a slow process... in principle, the majority of such women will one day fall under the rubric of public antiretroviral treatment... but there's no clear guarantee of when that day will dawn, or that women will get the treatment to which they're entitled. It's entirely possible that the men will be at the front of the bus.

(More tomorrow)

Torture and abuse in war

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

EVERYONE was so distracted by the elections last Monday, few people remembered that it was the 107th anniversary of Andres Bonifacio's death in Maragondon, Cavite. Why remember the execution in the Maragondon range when it is a part of our history we would rather forget? It is easier to accept the execution of Jose Rizal following the sentence rendered by a Spanish Military Court, than to deal with that of Bonifacio's following a decision handed down by a Filipino military court; and executed by soldiers of the Katipunan of which he was the Supremo. While I would not want to reopen long festering wounds, those distressing photographs of naked Iraqi prisoners of war being abused by American forces made me look back into the side story connected with the execution of the brothers Bonifacio in Maragondon.

Torture and abuse of prisoners are detestable courses of actions at any time and in any place. Thus, one of the problematic primary sources we have is a contemporary account of the Revolution in Cavite, written by Telesforo Canseco, caretaker of the Dominican hacienda in Naic. While his sympathy for friar prisoners is suspect, the "bad guys" in his narrative were not ordinary foot soldiers but the Bonifacio brothers. A translation of Canseco's original and lengthy Spanish narrative was published by the Jesuits Pedro de Achutegui and Miguel Bernad in 1972. An excerpt reads:

"When in the month of October [1896] I was brought a prisoner to San Francisco and from there to Buenavista, I spoke to the fathers who were kept prisoners there, confined in the same shed where he also was kept prisoner and I saw that they were not treated with the proper consideration. Afterwards, although I do not know the exact day or month, it became public knowledge in this town, and they assured me of it in San Francisco when I was a prisoner there that a brother of Andres Bonifacio had beaten up the Fathers in Buenavista, and that on one occasion he had whipped them with thorns [aromas] and with reeds in the soles of their feet, in such a manner that the Fathers would have preferred to be shot to death. Learning of this from the Minister of Finance, Diego Mojica was very angry against the brothers of A. Bonifacio and he forbade them to torture the Fathers again."

We do not know which of the two Bonifacio brothers—Ciriaco or Procopio—was the alleged torturer, but it has become almost folk belief that their deaths in 1897 was divine retribution for their ill-treatment of Fr. Agapito Echegoyen (Recollect), Domingo Candenas (Augustinian) a certain Father Piernavieja (Augustinian) and an anonymous Augustinian lay brother who were executed on Feb. 28, 1897.

Canseco wrote: "But because Andres Bonifacio was an intimate friend of President M[ariano] Alvarez and since both of them were bad men in the matter of religion—especially Bonifacio since he was a furious Mason—they determined to take the priests from Buenavista before they could be rescued by the Spaniards who had already taken Silang, and to bring them to Maragondon to be executed... According to rumor, the reason why they were condemned to death was that a woman had been captured who was carrying a letter from the priests addressed to the chief of the Spanish forces in Silang, informing him that they were prisoners in Buenavista and that they were awaiting to be rescued from there. For this reason the Supremo Andres Bonifacio and M. Alvarez took them from there and sentenced them to death in a hurry, but without notifying them of the verdict..."

The prisoners were to be executed in Maragondon but the townspeople refused to comply with the order, stating that they did not want the blood of the religious on their conscience and their town. So the prisoners were brought to Naic where the Bonifacio order of execution was implemented without hesitation. Thus, comparing the people of Maragondon with Naic, Canseco described the latter as "*tontos,*" adding that:

"During the stay of the Fathers in this town, nobody was allowed to talk to them, nor were they given food. The same was done to the Spanish laymen. They were given no other food except rice and sugar, and when the cook on one occasion tried to bring them some boiled eggs, the leaders learned about it and threatened the cook with imprisonment if he should try to do so again."

Canseco said that when Andres Bonifacio arrived in Naic, he ordered a firing squad organized and a *careton* to bring the fathers to the place of execution. What is interesting here is that Emilio Aguinaldo was upset when he heard of the execution because he tried, as much as possible, to treat Spanish prisoners humanely. Besides, the death sentence was not sent to him for confirmation. Canseco even alleged that Aguinaldo wanted to remove Bonifacio and Alvarez from office but the latter was a relative:

"Nevertheless Aguinaldo publicly rebuked their conduct calling them barbarians (*crueles*) and affirming that they had treated the Spanish prisoners badly, not even giving them enough food. Since Aguinaldo treated all the Spanish and native prisoners with great consideration, he easily won the goodwill of all, being elected president shortly afterwards..."

Torture and abuse may be isolated and rare but they do happen in times of war and stress. How we deal with them is the bigger problem.

* * *

Comments are welcome at aocampo@ateneo.edu

A Fil-Am general

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

I HAD suspected he was Filipino because of his surname, Taguba. And when he appeared on CNN, testifying in a US Senate investigative hearing, watching his body language and catching an ever so slight, but still distinct accent, I was certain he was Filipino.

Within minutes, thanks to the Internet, I was able to confirm he was indeed a Filipino-American and quite a remarkable one at that.

Last Wednesday, I quoted from a US military investigative report, issued in March, that had found "egregious acts and grave breaches of international law" at Abu Ghraib prison in Baghdad, Iraq. It was this report that formed the basis for a scathing exposé in The New Yorker magazine, accompanied by photographs of some of the abuses. It turns out that the report came from Antonio Taguba. Because of the report, he was summoned to the US Senate to testify.

Before going to the report itself, and the Senate hearing, here's a bit of the biographical information I gathered about Taguba, mainly from an article in a Hawaiian magazine, AsianWeek. His father, Tomas, was a survivor of a Japanese prison camp during the last world war, and went underground with the guerrillas in Isabela. After the war, the elder Taguba enlisted in the US Army.

Taguba was born in 1950 in Sampaloc, Manila, and migrated to the States with his parents and siblings when he was 11. He finished high school in Hawaii, went on to the Idaho State University and followed in his father's footsteps, joining the Army after college. He went on to finish three master's degrees in public administration, international relations and national security and strategic studies.

He made his way up the US military hierarchy, and became only the second Filipino-American to make it to the rank of general. He served in Germany and Korea, and is now stationed in Kuwait as deputy commanding general of the Third Army and of the Coalition Forces Land Component Command. His involvement in Iraq included a stint as acting director of the Army staff last year, and as head of the Army Community and Family Support Center. In January this year, he was assigned to conduct an informal investigation of detention operations by the 800th Military Police Brigade, focusing on allegations of maltreatment at Abu Ghraib that had been brought up by the International Red Cross.

Now to Taguba's testimony and report, which The New York Times described as "unflinching."

His 53-page report gives details on the abuses, which included sodomy, beatings and the use of dogs to attack the prisoners. He summarizes these abuses: "That between October and December 2003, numerous incidents of sadistic, blatant, and wanton criminal abuses were inflicted on several detainees... The allegations of abuse were substantiated by detailed witness statements and the discovery of extremely graphic photographic evidence."

Taguba testified that he felt the abuse was not part of official policy, although one senator, Carl Levin, suggested that top military officials may have been involved: "The collars used on prisoners, the dogs and the cameras did not suddenly appear out of thin air." Taguba insisted that only "a few soldiers and civilians conspired to abuse..." and that the problem was "a lack of discipline; no training whatsoever; and no supervision."

Apparently, it wasn't just a problem of abuse of prisoners. Taguba lists other violations of Army rules and regulations, from consuming alcohol to "negligent discharge of weapons" and a company commander taking nude pictures of his female soldiers without their knowledge.

His recommendations were uncompromising: Brig. Gen. Janis L. Karpinski, commander of the unit he was investigating, was to be relieved of her command and given a general officer Memorandum of Reprimand while Col. Thomas Pappas, commander of the brigade, was to be given a Memorandum of Reprimand as well. The list goes on and on, but it's also interesting how he also praises some officers for "taking the initiative in the absence of leadership" to uphold Army values.

The New York Times quotes an Army general who had served with Taguba: "If you want the truth, he's going to tell you the truth. He's not bullied; he's a stand-up guy." Taguba's report certainly reflected that high moral ground, one which he brought to the Senate hearing.

The headline of another New York Times article about Taguba's testimony describes how it went: "Rumsfeld Aide and a General Clash on Abuse." Taguba's view was that military police officers should not have been involved in "conditioning" or "softening up" Iraqi detainees. The "Rumsfeld aide" who disagreed with Taguba was Stephen Cambone, the defense undersecretary for intelligence.

It was clear Taguba knew what he was talking about, quoting Army rules and regulations down to the specific sections. And while I do not recall his ever using the words "human rights," his message was very clear: there are standards of human decency that must be upheld. This was why he was so adamantly opposed to having military intelligence officers supervising prison operations.

It shouldn't be surprising to see Taguba standing up for other people's rights. A few years ago, he brought up the case of his father never having been recognized for his service during World War II. As a result of his complaint, the US Army awarded his father medals, 54 years late.

I should point out that Taguba was testifying in a hearing that wasn't too friendly. Sen. James Inhofe used his time to express "outrage about the outrage," asking why there was so much fuss over the Iraqi prisoners and lashing out at "humanitarian do-gooders crawling all over these prisons looking for human rights violations."

Sadly, even as I felt pride watching Taguba, the senator's comments reminded me of the shame I felt earlier that night, listening to a CNN newscast segment where Asians were being asked for their reactions to the prisoner abuse. One unidentified Filipina, obviously upper-class, was shrill and spiteful, describing the Iraqis as "very, very, very, very cruel" and asking, "Why should we be kind to them for heaven's sake?"

Perhaps we need General Taguba (certainly not your typical liberal human rights activist) to visit the Philippines and explain why protection of human rights is so important, even more so in times of armed conflict. When we think of ourselves as above moral standards and our enemies as less than human, we reduce ourselves to the level of Islamist fanatics who decapitated an American, supposedly as vengeance for the abuse of Iraqi prisoners. Thankfully, Iraqis have also come out on CNN to condemn the beheading and call for an end to the cycle of violence.

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Brave Lady Monsod

WHAT never ceases to amaze me about former Neda Secretary Solita Collas-Monsod is her willingness to declare her stand no matter the public opinion. By saying that her vote was going to Bro. Eddie Villanueva, she must have, wittingly or unwittingly, offended people close to her. The public knows for a fact that Monsod was once a senatorial candidate in the lineup of President Macapagal-Arroyo's party. Expectedly, she should have voted for the President. However, after having gone through a critical assessment of the presidential candidates, she decided to risk her one special vote, not as some religious organizations did after relying on what seemed to be certain.

For her courage, brilliance and conviction, Monsod must shame our candidates in more ways than one. She is a resounding representative of the people who do not easily succumb to the moronic television ads of candidates typically surrounded by sexy dancers as if public service is all about entertainment. Also, her decision to go against the bandwagon is a clear indication of her disgust over religious institutions making robots out of their faithful. Furthermore, most of our candidates are nothing compared to the integrity and capability of Monsod. It is a national tragedy that this country is led by corrupt people with the least of professional expertise. Ironically, all of them portray themselves to be the last best hope of our disgraced nation.

LETTERS

The outcome of our elections will be a clear reflection of how we, as a society, have matured or regressed, considering the evils we have been through our history. I say, shame on the people who propagate evil in this country if they ever win again.

For genuine change in this nation, the public must emulate Monsod. We must go against the bandwagons that bring our society backward to the swamps of corruption, political patronage, poverty and stupidity.

—JAYEEL S. CORNELIO,
teacher, Bloomfield Academy,
Las Piñas City

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Sleaziest elections

THE RECENT elections brought out the worst and the sleaziest in our political and civic leaders. Never have I seen such brazen acts of politicking and mudslinging.

How could we not have seen the barefaced misuse of public funds for personal gain? If a leader sees it fit to do his or her job only during election time—then what would become of us?

If we voted for someone not because we thought him or her to be the best, but because we were afraid of someone else winning, then we are as toothless, gutless, incompetent and undeserving as those whom we are afraid of winning.

I sometimes ask myself: which is worse, a person who dies fighting for his family's future, or someone who lives to see that future slowly being taken away from him until not an ounce of hope and dignity is left of him?

The so-called "civil society" and our supposedly well-meaning church leaders confuse me. In Edsa I, it was OK to elect an inexperienced, unqualified person to the presidency as long as she was not corrupt. In the recent elections, they pushed for the victory of one whose rule was generally perceived to be corrupt over an inexperienced, unqualified individual whose name has never been tainted with graft or fraud.

No less than the Pope himself, in an April 20 message, asked the Filipinos to "Vote for public servants who are honest in their personal and public lives and who offer unconditional service to their constituents." (PDI, 4/21/04) But why didn't the church leaders echo this message? There surely were other competent alternatives that they could have pushed for.

What could be worse than a church which continuously involves itself in partisan political activity? A church that goes against its own message and teachings?

How times have changed. We must surely be out of favor with the Almighty for such a thing to happen to us. Maybe, we do deserve to remain a Third World country. I wonder what country it was that Ninoy Aquino was talking about as worth dying for?

—TROY DE LEON,
troydl@cliffhanger.com

More than choosing a president

THE MAY 10 elections were my first as a voter. I was in awe and nervous. Did I vote for the best candidate? Did I do my duty to my country?

I can only hope so. For this election, I had decided to drop my cynicism and hope for the best. I'm praying that whoever wins will be the best one for all of us—will have our nation's best interest at heart, even if most people don't see it right away, even if we have to wait to understand. I'm praying that the outcome of the elections will be as God wills. I'm praying that the winner will lead us out of the rut we're in; or if another round of hard times must come, that we may learn what we need to from the experience.

Despite my doubts about the Comelec, about the government, and even about the sanctity of the electoral process, I decided to set my mind and focus on the positive. I chose to believe that the Mass for Peace and Credible Elections held at the San Agustin Church a day before the elections reaffirmed the candidates' commitment to serve the nation in the best way they can, however their principles may differ. I chose to believe that things will look better for the Filipinos if they voted with their heart and their conscience, whether or not their respective candidates win. For when we start thinking of the nation as a whole, we change as a person together.

I choose to respect the results of the elections, and support the winner, for as long as premium is placed on the nation's best interest. I choose to become pro-active, and live for change rather than wait for it.

I think the recent electoral exercise was more than just choosing the next president, or searching for a messiah in these hard times. It was mobilizing that facet in us that beats with genuine concern for the nation. It's going to get better, I know it.

—ARTHUR BHENEDICT KING,
arthurbking_99@yahoo.com

Indigenous groups on participatory governance

WE are officers of province-wide indigenous associations and cooperatives. We have been active members of the Provincial Development Council of Nueva Vizcaya for many years.

Contrary to the allegation made in a letter that was published in the INQUIRER issue of May 3, may we submit this reply:

1. There is no mounting clamor for change of leadership. On the contrary, the indigenous peoples voluntarily campaigned for the election of Gov. Rodolfo Q. Agbayani as congressman for the lone district of Nueva Vizcaya. The upland people supported Agbayani because of his transparent, participatory and effective governance in the past 12 years.

2. One of the signatories of the letter is a certain Ronald Federico, allegedly representing the Nueva Vizcaya Indigenous Youth for Development. Gerson A. Vicente, president of the NV Indigenous Youth Association Inc. has come forward to deny that Federico is a member of the association.

3. Valentin Segundo, one of the letter-senders, is not known in his "Imugan" address.

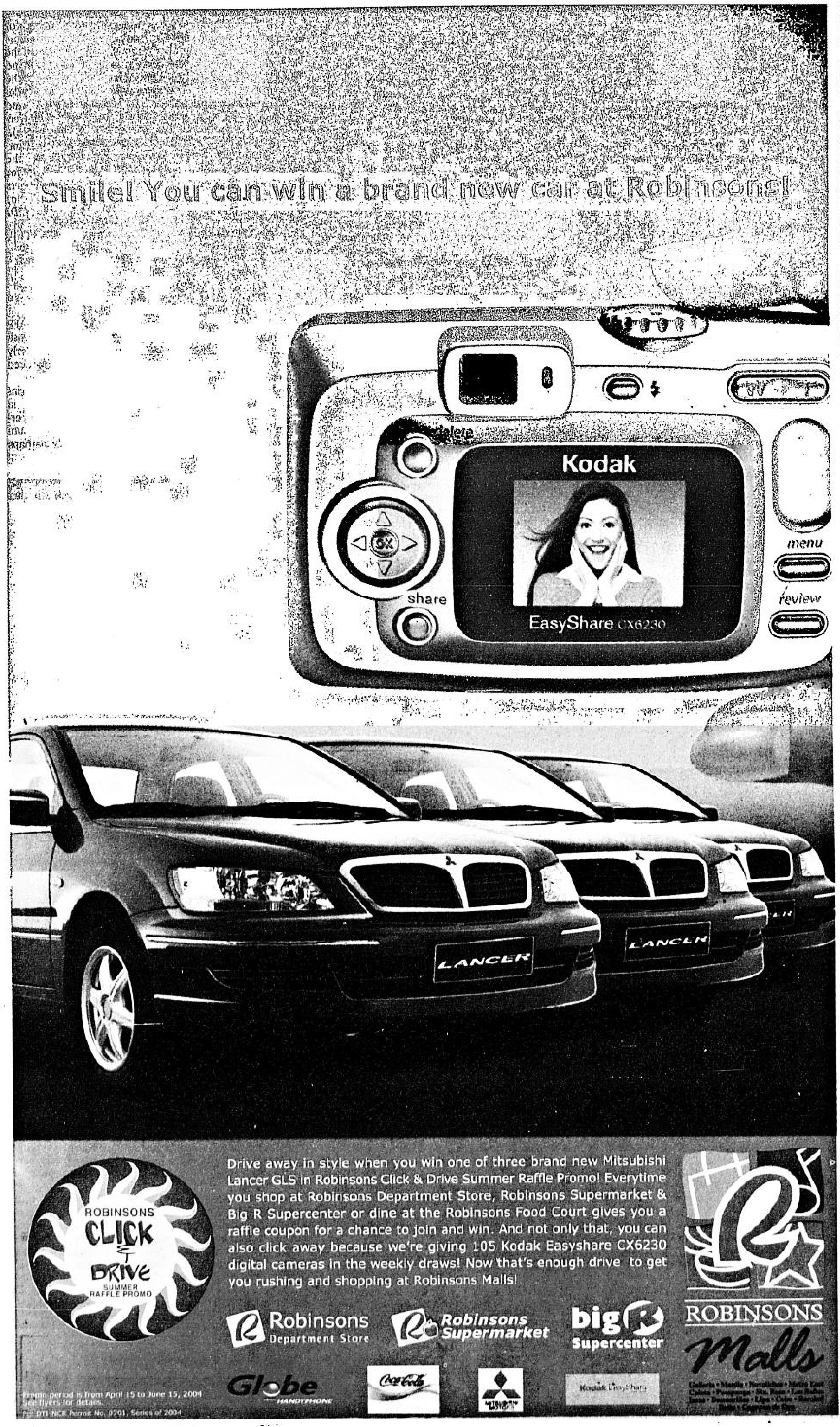
4. Tina Miguel from Belance, Dupax del Norte, an active IP community leader, dismisses the sweeping claims of the letter-writers as purely politically motivated by political rivals. Obviously, the purpose of the letter was to discredit the incumbent provincial leadership.

5. We believe that participatory governance is the answer to poverty, peace and order not only in the uplands of Nueva Vizcaya but throughout the entire nation.

Nueva Vizcaya's record speaks for itself. According to the National Economic and Development Authority, in 1992, its poverty incidence was 52 percent. It was down 21 percent as of 2000. For seven years, the province has been a consistent winner of the Best Peace and Order Council Award. The Malabing Valley MPC, in partnership with the Provincial Government of Nueva Vizcaya headed by Agbayani, won the Most Outstanding Coop-LGU Partnership Awards 2003 from the Philippine Senate.

We are now considered the Citrus Capital of the country. We have generated jobs and livelihood for the indigenous peoples constituting 45 percent of the province's population. Our provincial government's innovative watershed management project has won national awards; it has been formally adopted by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources as a national program. The program is welcomed by the indigenous peoples as a solution to the problem of upland poverty wherever it exists.

—GILBERT CUMILA,
founding chair, Malabing Valley MPC
and SAMMY BALINHAWANG,
Philippine Association for
Indigenous Culture of Northern Luzon



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Bishop to GMA foes: Show proof of fraud

From page A1

were until they introduced themselves.

Binay is campaign manager of Poe's Koalisyon ng Nagkakaisang Pilipino, and Sison, spokesperson of Villanueva's Bangon Pilipinas.

"I am open to all kinds of people and persuasions, and so my job was to listen to them and see what I could say to them afterwards," Vidal said.

He also cautioned against assembling people for protest rallies, "because if you gather people who are angry and frustrated, they might disturb the peace and quiet."

Vidal said he was shown reports that certain people from the administration were "buying" certificates of canvass.

"But how could I say anything about it? I just said to them not to make any judgment yet," he said.

Vidal said he told Binay and Sison to give him documented proof, "and not just be content with telling me about these incidents.

"Everything must be well-documented so that later on, if the CBCP (Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines) asks for an accounting of what I have heard, I will have something to present," he said.

Remonde, too

Sison and Binay were not the only ones who visited Vidal on Wednesday.

Cerge Remonde, media bureau chief of the administration coalition K-4, also came calling supposedly on President Macapagal-Arroyo's behest, to seek Vidal's help in ensuring that all concerned parties would respect the election results.

"The President sent me to Cardinal Vidal to ask for the help of His Eminence in ensuring peace and stability and respect for the rule of law at this time," Remonde said.

He said that when he arrived at the Archbishop's Palace, he was surprised to learn that Sison and Binay were also there. But he did not see them because he was in another room waiting for the cardinal, he said.

Remonde said Vidal spoke with him first before meeting with Sison and Binay, and then resumed their conversation after that meeting.

He said that at one point he rang up the President and then handed the mobile phone to Vidal.

He added that during the phone conversation, he heard Vidal assuring support for Ms Macapagal and promising her he would not support any move that could trigger chaos in the country.

With certainty

In Manila, Sison said Bangon Pilipinas and the KNP had agreed to gather the evidence so that they could "say with certainty that the election process was flawed."

The evidence of fraud will be submitted to Vidal, who will then review it and relay it to the multi-sectoral Coalition for Honest and Peaceful Elections (HOPE).

"Cardinal Vidal has committed to be a recipient of all of this. And if he is convinced—and he did not even say 'convinced with certainty,' he merely said 'morally convinced'—that there had been massive, widespread nationwide fraud during the elections, he will take a stand on this matter and even convince his colleagues [to do the same]," Sison said in an interview after the Round Table forum at the Manila Pavilion hotel.

CARDINAL Vidal: Premature to make a judgement.

Sison said he also wanted to know from Vidal what the HOPE coalition would do if Operation Tutok determined that there had been nationwide massive fraud.

"What are they going to do? Can we help each other? After all, it affects everybody, so why don't we do it for the benefit of the nation?" he said.

But Sison said he did not set the joint meeting with Binay. He said Vidal had entertained the two of them together.

Sison said the three of them "exchanged information" on the alleged fraud that their camps and Operation Tutok had been receiving in the past days.

He said Vidal did not confirm that there was fraud but said the HOPE coalition was still receiving reports on the conduct of the polls from their volunteers all over the country and would continue to monitor the counting as well.

"[Vidal] said he will make a stand. What that stand is, I do not know. He wants to calibrate his actions as well," Sison said.

He also stressed that Villanueva was not conceding even if the initial unofficial count showed the evangelist in fourth place among the five presidential candidates.

"To concede is for us to accept the results of flawed elections. We want to be sure that officials are rightfully elected in credible elections," he said.

Documenting complaints

Binay told reporters that the KNP and Bangon Pilipinas were documenting complaints of poll irregularities, which they planned to submit to Vidal by Sunday.

He said the meeting with Vidal was made possible with the help of the Christian Nationalist Union (CNU), and that they had turned to the Catholic Church because of its "moral ascendancy."

Asked whether the KNP and Bangon Pilipinas would link up with the camps of the other presidential candidates, Binay said without elaborating: "Very soon."

He said more groups would be joining them, and that their common objective was to make sure that the elections were "clean and honest."

He also said the groups intended to keep being vigilant and "to see to it that the will of the people would be properly reported."

Told that some Poe supporters seemed to be agitated over recent developments, Binay said they were not out "to foment violence."

He added in Taglish: "What I'm saying is that if there is an upheaval, there is a reason to protest. What is needed is for the reason for the people's anger to be addressed. And, certainly, the people will not be happy if the election results are not realistic."

"*Sana huwag magkagulo* (Let's hope there will be no trouble)," Binay added.

Asked if that was a warning to the administration, he said his camp was merely "requesting them to review what happened in the past."

More powerful than God

In Pangasinan, Lingayen-Dagupan Archbishop Oscar Cruz told Agence France Presse that he found it "amazing" that all 5,470 voters of the town of Santo Tomas had taken the voting advice of Mayor Antonio Villar, a supporter of Ms Macapagal's.

Cruz said the mayor appeared to be "even more powerful than God Himself."

He said the case invited comparisons with the conduct of elections during the 20-year Marcos dictatorship.

Villar could not be reached for comment.

But Vidal said that in Cebu, the elections were "generally fair and relatively peaceful," based on the initial assessment of the Cebu-Citizens' Involvement and Maturation in People's Empowerment and Liberation (C-Cimple).

Vidal is overall chair of C-Cimple, the local counterpart of the National Citizens Movement for Free Elections. *With reports from Carlito Pablo in Manila; Jhunnex Napallacan, PDI Visayas Bureau; AFP*

PNP to international observers: First time always a shock

From page A1

"shock" over the violence and purported massive cheating that they witnessed.

The Philippine National Police, a primary deputy of the Commission on Elections, was neither amused nor offended. Chief Supt. Joel Goltiao, PNP spokesperson, said the foreigners' reaction was understandable.

"Being first-timers in a Third World election, they need time to understand (Philippine) culture and the whole electoral process," Goltiao told reporters yesterday.

For instance, he said, it was natural for the observers to be concerned about how candidates for a small-town mayoralty could kill rivals.

He explained: This was commonplace in a developing country like the Philippines but probably didn't happen where the observers came from.

PNP records show that election day this year was marred by 26 cases of violence that killed eight people and wounded 24 others.

Brought in by the Church electoral watchdog Patriot, the 15 members of the monitoring team hail from the United States, Australia and Europe.

They accompanied poll watchers in Metro Manila, Pampanga, Pangasinan, Nueva Ecija and Isabela—all "areas of concern," as identified by the PNP.

Goltiao noted that, in contrast, a separate group of observers from other Third World countries found the recent polls "generally peaceful."

The first team's assessment merely showed authorities that there was room for improvement, the PNP official said. "We're talking of the whole electoral system; we cannot change it overnight."

If it's any consolation, Goltiao pointed out, the Comelec performed better this year than in the last two elections.

"Even with the violence and the continuing problems, we still believe that the election was credible," he maintained.

Elections in 2001 had a total of 47 incidents wherein 14 people were killed and 31 were injured. Three years before that, there were 10 dead and 50 wounded in 67 incidents.

The Armed Forces, the Comelec's other primary deputy, was a little more peeved.

Lt. Gen. Rodolfo Garcia, AFP vice chief of staff and chief of Task Force HOPE (Honest, Orderly and Peaceful Elections), faulted the observers' perspective.

"I don't know how well-informed these people are," Garcia told reporters in a press conference yesterday. "If they were more familiar with our system, perhaps they would appreciate it."

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GMA now leads Poe in Namfrel count

From page A1

In the vice presidential race, Sen. Noli de Castro, Ms Macapagal's running mate, pulled away from Sen. Loren Legarda, Poe's running mate.

De Castro was leading Legarda by 270,139, way above his 1,000-vote lead in their neck-and-neck race from the 1 p.m. to 9 p.m tallies on Wednesday.

A far third in the race for the top post was Panfilo Lacson who received 370,558 votes, followed by Bro. Eddie Villanueva with 194,282 votes and Raul Roco with 162,461 votes.

Poe was still leading Ms Macapagal almost by half in Regions 1, 3, 4, 8, 11, 12 and Metro Manila.

The President, on the other hand, was ahead in Regions 6, 7, 14 (Caraga), 15 (Cordillera Autonomous Region) and 17 (overseas vote).

Lacson came out strong in Region 12 but his gain was not enough to overtake the votes of Ms Macapagal and Poe.

Huge

De Castro made huge gains in Regions 6,7, 11 and 14 (Caraga). He was also No. 1 in the OV.

The electorate, however, gave Legarda a thumbs-up in Regions 1, 3, 8, 12, 13 (Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao) and Metro Manila.

Both Ms Macapagal and De Castro made a good start in the OV count and got the biggest number of votes in all five countries that had submitted their tallies to Namfrel.

The President got 23,287 votes against 10,632 votes for Poe.

The Namfrel results reflected the votes of 49,438 people who cast their votes on May 10 in different diplomatic missions abroad.

Namfrel Chair Jose Concepcion Jr. said the tallies came from Brunei, Italy, Japan, Singapore and the United States.

Votes from Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, Saipan, Hong Kong and Taiwan have yet to come in.

More than 350,000 Filipinos registered for overseas voting.

Roxas does poorly in OV

But while voters made Mar Roxas the topnotcher in almost all the 16 regions with 1,997,197 votes, the former trade secretary fared poorly in the OV count, placing only 13th.

Bong Revilla was second in the overall tally nationwide with 1,600,393 votes but topped the OV count with 26,521.

Strengthening their hold on the third and fourth spots were Sen. Aquilino Pimentel and Jamby Madrigal with 1,581,733 and 1,369,803 votes, respectively.

Richard Gordon dislodged Miriam Defensor-Santiago from the fifth spot. Gordon had 1,360,828 votes while Santiago received 1,276,487 votes.

Pia Juliana Cayetano was in sixth place and Alfredo Lim, seventh. Santiago moved down to eighth.

Rodolfo Biazon also moved down to 10th place while Jinggoy Estrada moved up to ninth place. Robert Barbers and Juan Ponce Enrile managed to hang on to the last two spots.

A furious Concepcion challenged those who were accusing Namfrel of cheating in its tabulation to come out and personally witness the ongoing quick count at La Salle Greenhills in San Juan.

He said those responsible for the two sets of flyers circulating in La Salle with the headlines "Namfrel, Itigil Ang Pandaraya" and "Gabby Lopez at ABS-CBN, Mahiya Kayo!" should be man enough to own them. The flyers also came out in newspapers as published ads.

GMA-Ping reconciliation most likely

From page A1

Lacson, however, said that genuine reconciliation would have to benefit the whole country and not only a few individuals. "There should be reconciliation to rebuild the country. It should be anchored on correcting or taking to task what is wrong in government."

He added: "There should be constructive criticism. I don't think she'll [begrudge that kind of criticism]. Otherwise, this country will go nowhere."

A few days before the elections, Lacson had claimed that he and Ms Macapagal were engaged in "unity talks" which fueled speculations that a reconciliation was in the works. This could ultimately lead to the dropping of the Kuratong Baleleng charges against the senator that government lawyers had moved to revive.

Malacañang was all praises for Lacson for not joining other presidential candidates in protesting alleged massive cheating in the elections. There was even talk that Ms Macapagal and the author of the "Jose Pidal" exposé last year were close to burying the hatchet.

Pleasant surprise

"We never expected this to come from him but we welcome it. We were pleasantly surprised that Senator Lacson called on his supporters to refrain from joining protest actions," said presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye at a briefing.

Lacson made the remarks after supporters of opposition candidate Fernando Poe Jr. were egged on by their leaders to hold protest rallies to denounce alleged large-scale cheating in the elections.

Lacson was the biggest thorn in Ms Macapagal's side during the 90-day campaign as the former police chief attacked her alleged use of government funds in her bid for a full six-year term and for making First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo a liability to her campaign. It was Lacson who had accused Arroyo of putting up fictitious bank accounts under the name "Jose Pidal" to allegedly launder millions of pesos in campaign contributions.

But Bunye refused to comment on whether Malacañang had changed its attitude on Lacson, who called for sobriety in the face of the slow and conflicting election counts.

"The President has always called for unity and reconciliation at the earliest possible time but as to how this will be carried out still has to be threshed out," he said.

Observers noted that Ms Macapagal should credit Lacson for helping her election because had he agreed to form a unified ticket with Poe, the opposition could have made a stronger, united front against the President's bid.

To resign from LDP

Lacson also said that if his presidential bid failed, he would resign from the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino and become an independent.

He clarified that his decision to accept the President's offer of reconciliation and his decision to leave the LDP were unrelated.

"I've long thought about leaving the LDP," Lacson told the INQUIRER in a phone interview. Despite being independent, he'd still ally himself with the opposition in the Senate.

He also said that LDP president Sen. Edgardo Angara had destroyed the party.

Throughout his campaign, Lacson pointed out that no one among the national candidates of the opposition Koalisyon ng Nagkakaisang Pilipino, which Angara forged with other opposition groups, was from the LDP.

"I don't intend to stay a minute longer," Lacson said referring to the LDP.

"I'd be an independent. Besides, I'm independent-minded," he added.

Lacson is scheduled to discuss his resignation with LDP secretary general Agapito Aquino in a meeting today.

Aquino headed the LDP faction that drafted Lacson as its presidential candidate following the KNP and Angara's selection of Poe as standard-bearer.

Angara and Angara

"If Congressman Aquino and (Iloilo) Congressman Rolex Suplico would join me, then the LDP would only be Angara and Angara," Lacson said referring to the senator and his son, who was reportedly winning the congressional race in Aurora province.

Even Lacson's return to the Senate still hangs in the balance as he vowed during the campaign that he'd resign if he only got three million votes or less.

Bunye also lauded Senate President Franklin Drilon, as well as Senator Aquilino Pimentel, an opposition KNP candidate for re-election, for cautioning candidates and their supporters on airing charges of election fraud and cheating. *(Story on Page A1.)*

Bunye warned that the government would apply the full force of the law against groups that would undermine the electoral process or political order.

"We will exercise maximum tolerance against protest actions but we shall move quickly and decisively against any attempt to undermine public order," he said.

Bunye also praised other sporting candidates who accepted their losses gallantly, such as Parañaque City Mayor Joey Marquez and Baguio City Mayor Bernardo Vergara, who conceded defeat immediately after it was clear. that their rivals had garnered insurmountable leads.

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ELECTION 2004

CORDILLERA ADMINISTRATIVE REGION (CAR)

ABRA
Namfrel as of 3 pm; 05/11/04

Governor

Valera, Vicente P.	18,735
Luna, Roger B.	5,786

Congressman
Namfrel as of 3 pm, 05/11/04

Bersamin, Luis, Jr. P.	21,460
Aquino, Carlos B.	519

BENGUET
Namfrel as of 4 pm, 05/13/04

Governor

Melchor, Borromeo P.	46,789
Tabanda, Edna C.	45,126
Tinda-an, Robert M.	33,254
Awal, Abundio M.	2,511

Congressman
Namfrel as of 4 pm, 05/13/04

Dangwa, Samuel M.	82,487
Molintas, Raul M.	44,787
Palaez, Bial A.	2,123
Guznian, Bedis B.	168

Congressman (Baguio City)
Comelec as of 4 pm, 05/13/04

Domogan, Mauricio G.	57,137
Tayengco, Thomas S.	2,707
Zamora, Imelda R.	1,639
Goyenechea, Luis S.	1,050

BAGUIO CITY

Mayor

Yaranon, Braulio D.	33,765
Vergara, Bernardo M.	15,293
Avila, Edgar M.	9,873
Cariño, Richard A.	6,485
Ramos, Felipe T.	173

IFUGAO
Comelec Final and Official Results

Governor

Cappleman, Benjamin B.	27,651
Baguilat, Teodoro, Jr. B.	26,770

Congressman

Chungalao, Solomon R.	41,940
Paredes, Renato M.	27,511

MOUNTAIN PROVINCE
Comelec as of 05/13/04
Comelec Final and Official Results

Governor

Dalog, Maximo B.	22,883
Mayaen, Leonard G.	16,627
Malinias, Sario M.	13,442
Dominguez, Harry C.	9,611

Congressman

Dominguez, Victor S.	20,155
Daoas, David A.	17,726
Pilando, Roy S.	12,563
Wooden, Anthony D.	12,436
Liwanen, Emilio M	93

REGION 1

ILOCOS NORTE
Namfrel as of 12 PM, 05/13/04
709 out of 1485 precincts

Governor

Marcos, Ferdinand, Jr. R.	218,971

Congressman (District 1)
Namfrel as of 05/13/04
332 out of 761 precincts

Ablan, Roque, Jr. R.	63,060
Sales, Reynolan	47,460

Congressman (District 2)
Namfrel as of 4 pm, 05/13/04
Proclaimed

Imee R. Marcos	108,584

LAOAG CITY
Comelec as of 4 pm, 05/13/04
Proclaimed

Mayor

Fariñas, Michael V.	23,575
Domingo, Edward P.	18,875

ILOCOS SUR
Namfrel as of 12 pm, 05/13/04

Governor

Singson, Luis C.	157,945
Rafanan, Efren A.	114,624

Congressman (District 1)

Baterina, Salacnib F.	71,443
Tajon, Mariano M.	38,262

Congressman (District 2)

Singson, Eric D.	135,779
Antolin, Ernesto N.	3,185

CANDON CITY
COMELEC final results, 05/13/04

Mayor

Singson, Allen G.	20,270
Arde, Noli	1,743

VIGAN CITY
COMELEC final results, 05/13/04

Mayor

Medina, Ferdinand C.	13,453
Arca, Liborio F.	6,326

LA UNION
Comelec as of 2 pm, 05/12/04

Governor

Ortega, Victor Francisco C.	51,730
Dumpit, Thomas, Jr. DL.	13,404

Congressman (District 1)

Ortega, Manuel C.	42,102
Dumpit, Erwin A.	6,072

Congressman (District 2)

Dumpit, Tomas M.	9,247
Bacumay, Henry, Jr. A.	7,789

SAN FERNANDO CITY
Comelec as of 2 pm, 05/12/04

Mayor

Ortega, Mary Jane C.	34,071
Flores, Godofredo A.	4,311

PANGASINAN
Comelec as of 4 pm, 05/13/04

Governor

Agbayani, Victor Aguedo E.	258,155
Goco, Manetta P.	18,393
Siapno, Juan C.	

Congressman (District 1)

Celeste, Arthur D.	6,755
Agbayani, Luis E.	3,374

Congressman (District 2)

Espino, Amado, Jr. T.	35,683
Cruz, Teodoro C.	19,350
Cruz, Danilo C.	

Congressman (District 5)
Comelec as of 4 pm, 05/13/04

Cojuangco, Marcos O.	55,682

Congressman (District 6)
Comelec as of 4 pm, 05/13/04

Estrella, Conrado III M.	31,713
Bince, Alfonso, Jr. C.	16,879

ALAMINOS CITY
PPCRV Complete returns as of 05/12/04

Mayor

Braganza, Hernani A.	21,032
Garcia, Arturo R.	6,916

DAGUPAN CITY
PPCRV Complete returns as of 05/12/04

Mayor

Lim, Benjie S.	38,935
Manaois, Teodoro C.	26,118

URDANETA CITY

REGION 2

BATANES
Final and Official Results
Comelec, 05/12/04

Governor

Gato, Vicente DS	4,590
Caccam, German DS.	3 037

Congressman

Abad, Henedina R.	4,051
Castillejos, Telesforo F.	3,577
Abad, Nicanor B.	77

CAGAYAN
Namfrel as of 5 pm, 05/12/04

Governor

Lara, Edgar R.	224,651
Fausto, Leonides N.	68,928
Perez, Jose A.	2,484
Delos Santos, Joven P.	2,092

Congressman (District 1)
Namfrel as of 5 pm, 05/12/04

Ponce Enrile, Juan, Jr. C.	54,630
Padilla, Victor I.	27,721

Congressman (District 2)

Vargas, Florencio L.	47,587
Layus, Celia T.	37,376
Salvatera, Norma D.	2,367
Ramos, Lazaro U.	1,954

Congressman (District 3)

Mamba, Manuel N.	73,326
Ting, Delfin T.	67,647

TUGUEGARAO CITY
Namfrel as of 5 pm, 05/12/04

Mayor

Ting, Randolph S.	32,510
Collado, Lucio S.	4,198
Santos, Bernabe M.	

ISABELA
Namfrel as of 12 pm, 05/13/04

Governor

Dy, Faustino, Jr. S	197,135
Padaca, Maria Gracia Cielo M.	155,324

Congressman (District 1)
Namfrel as of 12 pm, 05/13/04

Albano, Rodolfo III T.	38,558
Marallag, Francisco V.	1,977

Congressman (District 2)
Namfrel as of 12 pm, 05/13/04

Uy, Edwin C.	49,078
Calderon, Benito R.	24,619

Congressman (District 3)
Namfrel as of 12 pm, 05/13/04

Dy, Faustino III DG.	28,547
Chan, Carlos	6,660

Congressman (District 4)
Namfrel as of 12 pm, 05/13/04

Aggabao, Giorgidi B.	4,424
Miranda, Anthony C.	3,028

CAUAYAN CITY
Namfrel as of 05/12/04

Mayor

Dy, Cesar DG.	23,551
Felipe, Marianito, Jr.	10,461

SANTIAGO CITY

Mayor

Navarro, Amelita S.	10,471
Miranda, Jose C.	8,315

NUEVA VIZCAYA
Comelec as of 3 pm, 05/12/04

Governor

Perez, Leonardo Byron R.	24,282
Cuaresma, Luisa L.	22,848
Salun-at, Ernesto S.	15,677

Congressman
Comelec as of 3 pm, 05/12/04

Agbayani, Rodolfo Q.	27,944
Lantion, Thompson C.	21,292
Padilla, Ruth R.	16,579

REGION 3

AURORA
Namfrel final results

Governor

Angara-Castillo, Bellafor	44,635

BATAAN
Namfrel as of 05/13/04

Governor

Garcia, Enrique Jr. T.	77,819
Roque, Rogelio G.	59,239
Gonzales, Zenaida B.	1,011

Congressman (District 1)

Roman, Antonino P.	34,287
Ferrer, Gaudencio C.	21,105

Congressman (District 2)

Roman, Leonardo B.	45,807
Garcia, Albert S.	44,252

Mayor (Balanga City)

Banzon, Melanio Jr. S.	20,779
Garcia, Jose Enrique III	18,363

BULACAN
Namfrel as of 05/12/04

Governor

Dela Cruz, Josefina M.	69,073
Maganto, Romeo E.	3,091

Congressman (District 1)
Namfrel as of 05/12/04

Sy-Alvarado, Wilhelmino M.	33,830
Ople, Raul V.	11,924

Congressman (District 2)

Pancho, Pedro M.	19,093
Villarama, Wilfrido B.	13,075

NUEVA ECIJA
Namfrel as of 3:30 pm, 05/13/04

Governor

Joson, Tomas III N.	99,347
Villareal, Julita L.	93,844
Alvaran, Dominador V.	1,706

Congressman (District 1)
Namfrel as of 4 pm, 05/13/04

Joson, Josefina M.	28,417
Diaz, Cecilia DP.	5,918
Rondon, Daniel R.	5,174
Aquino, Rodrigo F.	534

Congressman (District 2)

Violago, Eleuterio R.	13,319
Alvarez, Efren L.	6,925

Congressman (District 3)
Namfrel as of 4 pm, 05/13/04

Umali, Aurelio M.	74,603
Ordonez, Philip V.	25,709

Congressman (District 4)
Namfrel as of 4 pm, 05/12/04

Villareal, Raul L.	9,613
Antonino, Rodolfo W.	8,913
Padiernos, Justino A.	182

PAMPANGA
Namfrel as of 12 pm, 05/13/04
5114 out of 5458 precincts

Governor

Lapid, Mark T.	318,829
Bondoc, Juan Pablo P.	161,736
Ducut, Zenaida C.	120,734
Arroño, Clark Field III C.	2,126

Congressman (District 1)
Namfrel as of 12 pm, 05/13/04

Nepomuceno, Francis L.	92,454
Lazatin, Janet Rita B.	69,874

Congressman (District 2)
Namfrel as of 12 pm, 05/13/04

Arroyo, Juan Miguel M.	135,745
Lapid, Remberto M.	24,879

Congressman (District 3)
Namfrel as of 12 pm, 05/13/04

Aquino, Reynaldo B.	73,854
Domingo, Rolando Enrique D.	47,248
Labung, Ferdinand P.	46,121

Congressman (District 4)
Namfrel as of 12 pm, 05/13/04

Bondoc, Anna York P.	83,059
Maglanque, Rene E.	43,888
Ocampo, Ramsey L.	43,412
Laxa, Antonio D.	1,843

Mayor (Angeles City)

Lazatin, Carmelo F.	55,211
Nepomuceno, Robin L.	45,837

Mayor (San Fernando City)
Namfrel as of 12 pm, 05/13/04

Rodriguez, Oscar S.	27,092
Domingo, Andrea D.	22,273
Lagman, Eligio H.	22,147
Henson, Rosve V	5 738

TARLAC
Comelec as of 3 PM, 05/13/04
543 out of 2,876 precincts

Governor

Yap, Jose Villa A.	65,067
Apostol, Isaias M.	20,721

Congressman (Dist 1)
Comelec as of 4 PM, 05/13/04
418 out of 944 precincts

Teodoro, Gilberto Jr. C.	47,120

Congressman (Dist 2)
Comelec as of 3 pm, 05/13/04
58 out of 1079 precincts

Aquino, Benigno Simeon III C.	7,768
Caymo, Eduardo S.	154
Delos Reyes, Jorge A.	33
Bulatao, Rolly N.	0

Mayor (Tarlac City)
Comelec as of 5 pm, 05/12/04

Mendoza, Genaro M.	1,442
Manalang, Gelacio M.	1,271
Tañedo, Miguel A.	365

ZAMBALES
Namfrel as of 10 am, 05/12/04

Governor

Magsaysay, Vicente P.	51,526
Montalla, Cheryl D.	40,610
Perez, Ferdinand A.	97

Congressman (District 1)
Namfrel as of 10 a.m. 05/12
and Comelec as of 05/13

Magsaysay, Maria Milagros H.	44,103
Gordon, Katherine H.	30,235
Dela Llana, Loretta P.	634
Owen, Teodora L.	86

Congressman (District 2)

Diaz, Antonio M.	32,215
Mendaros, Edwin DV.	20,460
Torres, Ruben D.	19,523

Mayor (Olongapo City)
Comelec Official Results 05/13/04

Gordon, James J.	65,749
Malabute, Giderbert P.	12,471
Antiporta, Agustin Sr. D.	180

REGION 4-A

BATANGAS
Namfrel as of 3 pm, 05/13/04

Governor

Apacible, Rosario M.	160 359
Sanchez, Armando C.	154,046
Perez, Hernando B.	131,509
Hernandez, Nicomedes F.	19,904
Mandanas, Marcos Jr. M.	13,054
Atienza, Arturo A.	1,980
Samson, Rojeto C.	914

Congressman (District 1)

Buhain, Elenita Milagros E.	95,569
Ilao, Isidro I.	5,127
Mendoza, Victor P.	5,015
Laparan, Rolando S.	527
Limjoco, Albert I.	453

Congressman (District 2)

Mandanas, Hermilando I.	122,723

Congressman (District 3)

Reyes, Victoria H.	42,969
Bathan, Carlos A.	19,711
Nora, Gregorio S.	8,424
Santillan, Jonathan W.	1,149

Congressman (District 4)

Gozos, Oscar L.	102,964
Linatoc, Donato O.	20,759
Recto, Ramon A.	8,469
Llanes, Modesto Jr. B.	377

CAVITE
Namfrel as of 05/13/04

Governor

Maliksi, Erineo S.	144,934
Velasco, Eppimaco A.	49,632
Uy, Virginia P.	590

Mayor (Cavite City)
Namfrel as of 05/12/04

Parades, Bernardo S.	65,992
Enriquez, Restituto T.	54,645

LAGUNA
Namfrel as of 3 pm, 05/13/04

Governor

Fernandez, Danilo Ramon S.	154,176
Lazaro, Teresita S.	153,984
San Luis, Rodolfo S.	142,584

Congressman (District 1)

Joaquin, Uliran T.	70,779
Matibag, Melvin A.	24,710

Congressman (District 2)

Chipeco, Justin SB.	45,647
Lajara, Severino J.	24,843
Ilag, Leodegario M.	1,214

Congressman (District 3)

Bueser, Danton O.	123,227
Manicad, Conrado L.	17,885

Congressman (District 4)

Agarao, Benjamin Jr. C.	36,345
Soriano, Vincent L.	21,831
Maceda, Erwin P.	16,731
Palacol, Magdaleno Jr. B.	11,855
Caballes, Louie T.	251

REGION 4-B

OCCIDENTAL MINDORO
Namfrel as 05/13/04

Governor

Sato, Josephine R.	146,447
Villarosa, Jose T.	101,132

Congressman

Medalla, Pedro Jr. O.	38,242
Quintos, Ricardo V.	89,441
Villarosa, Ma. Amelita C.	109,423

ORIENTAL MINDORO

Congressman (District 1)
Namfrel as of 12 05 pm, 05/13/04

Valencia, Rodolfo G	62,238
Leviste, Juan Renato V.	50,547
Turano, Ligorio A.	19,184
Navarro, Enrico B.	2,075

REGION 5

ALBAY
Namfrel as of 05/13/04

Governor

Gonzales, Fernando V.	147,889
Bichara, Alfonso P.	115,343
Sael, Brando M.	42,012
Manzanilla, Remedios S.	29,760
Llamas, Sotero P.	8,240

Congressman (District 1)
Namfrel as of 2 pm, 05/13/04

Lagman, Edcel C.	98,490
Gutierrez, Patria Matias C.	19,712

Congressman (District 2)
Namfrel as of 05/13/04

Imperial, Carlos DR.	69,788
Los Baños, Efren O.	35,460

Congressman (District 3)
Namfrel as of 05/13/04

Salceda, Jose Ma. Clemente S.	104,062
Reonisto, Lucia G.	3,229
Bakano, Juanito Juan, Jr. A.	144
Salle, Roberto S	81

Mayor (Legazpi City)
Namfrel as of 05/13/04

Imperial, Michael Victor C.	43,417
Rosal, Noel E.	32,801

Mayor (Ligao City)
Namfrel as of 05/13/04

Gonzales, Linda P.	17,426
Bichara, Stephen DC.	15,490

Mayor (Tabaco City)

Berces, Lourdes B.	28,453
Burce, Alex A.	15,491

CAMARINES SUR
Namfrel as of 05/13/04

Governor

Villafuerte, Luis Raymund, Jr. F.	163,942
Fuentebella, Felix William B.	98,711
Alfelor, Emmanuel R.	57,105

Congressman (District 1)

Andaya, Rolando Jr. G.	102,228
Dilanco, Teodoro V.	15,816

Congressman (District 4)
Namfrel 6 am, 05/13/04

Alfelor, Felix, Jr. R.	50,329
Papin, Imelda A.	28,429

CATANDUANES
Namfrel as of 12:30 pm, 05/13/04

Governor

Cua, Joseph C.	39,347
Verceles, Leandro, Jr. B.	38,261

Congressman
Namfrel as of 05/13/04

Santiago, Joseph A.	46,369
Wong, Araceli B.	27,830
Sanchez, Hector S.	7,040
Traballo, Cenon, Jr. T.	399

Mayor (Virac)

Que Sy, Larry	2,465
Panti Romero, Raul	8,169
Alberto, Jose V.	14,355

MASBATE
Pemac as of 05/13/04

Governor

Abubakar, Salem B.	85
Kho, Antonio T.	69,614
Seachon, Fausto Jr. L.	68,713
Villar, Smante R.	122

Congressman (District 2)

Espinosa, Emilio Jr.	22,855
Lopez, Dionnie S.	18,164

Congressman (District 3)

Kho, Elisa Olga T.	23,237
Kho, Ernesto T.	7,060
Seachon, Rizalina	28,285

REGION 6

AKLAN
Comelec/ partial official as of 12noon, 05/13/04
171 of 1830 precincts

Governor

Marquez, Carlito S.	10,224
Fernandez, Efren Q.	8,810
Ramos, Victoria M.	8,747

Congressman
Comelec/partial official as of 12 noon, 05/13/04
171 of 1830 precincts

Calizo, Gabrielle V.	14,052
Miraflores, Florencio T.	13,342
Ambito, Basilio S.	120

ANTIQUE
Comelec / partial official as of 6pm, 05/13/04
779 of 1249 precincts

Governor

Perez, Salvacion Z.	60,655
Operiano, Roberto Q.	45,820

Congressman
Comelec / partial official as of 6pm, 05/13/04
779 of 1249 precincts

Javier, Exequiel B.	55,528
Plameras, Jovito, Jr. C.	45,795
Mallares, Narzal B.	7,036

CAPIZ
Comelec final as of 5pm, 5/13/04

Governor
Bermejo, Vicente B.
proclaimed winner

Congressman (District 1)
Comelec partial/official as of 5pm, 5/13/04

Dadivas, Rodriguez D.	34,791
Borda, Jose E	10,721
Altavas, Rey Antonio Jose S.	333

Congressman (District 2)
Comelec partial/official as of 5pm, 5/13/04
Castro, Frenedil H.
proclaimed winner

Mayor (Roxas City)
Namfrel as of 3pm, 5/12/04
Del Rosario, Antonio A.
proclaimed winner

GUIMARAS
Comelec/ final official, 11 am, 05/13/04

Governor
Nava, Joaquin Carlos
proclaimed winner

Congressman
Comelec / final official, 11 am, 05/13/04
Espinosa, Edgar T.
proclaimed winner

ILOILO
Namfrel as of 2 pm, 05/13/04

Governor

Tupas, Niel, Sr. D.	115,171
Garin, Oscar G.	82,183
Gil, Norbert P.	304

Congressman Iloilo City)
Namfrel as of 2 pm, 05/13/04

Gonzales, Raul, Jr. T.	62,760
Malabor, Mansueto A.	57,965
Lopez-Vito, Rafael J.	24,185
Gerochi, Romeo P.	11,226
Carreon, Carmelo DL.	1,021
Espinosa, Pascual, Jr. R.	232
Alcarde, Francis M.	149
Gaje, Juanito L.	87

Congressman (District 1)
Namfrel as of 2 pm, 05/13/04

Garin, Janette L.	35,052
Tesoro, Elmer M.	260
Torres, Jaime T.	9,007

Congressman (District 2)
Syjuco, Judy
unopposed

Congressman (District 3)
Namfrel as of 2 pm, 05/13/04

Defensor, Arthur	34,657
Magno, Juanito A.	10,485

Congressman (District 4)
Namfrel as of 2 pm, 05/13/04

Palmares, Jesry T.	24,914
Biron, Ferjenel G.	17,576

Congressman (District 5)
Namfrel as of 2 pm, 05/13/04

Sulpico, Rolex T.	13,601
Manipula, Ariel C.	1,440

Mayor (Iloilo City)
Namfrel as of 2 pm, 05/13/04

Treñas, Jerry P.	130,522
Facultad, Victor V.	22,956
Sarabia, Ma. Rita B.	5,589
Ang, Vicente P.	167

NEGROS OCCIDENTAL
Comelec / partial official as of 12 noon, 05/13/04
647 of 5543 precincts

Governor

Marañon, Joseph G.	80,309
Locsin, Delia Edilfrudes S.	13,549

Congressman (Bacolod City)
Comelec/ partial official as of 12 noon, 05/13/04
225 of 1281 precincts

Puentevella, Monico D.	11,091
Orola, Juan, Jr. N.	7,212
Baribar, Archie S.	2,263
Amadora, Jose Maria G.	19

Congressman (District 1)
Comelec / partial official as of 12 noon, 05/13/04

Carmona, Tranquilino B.	4,025
Librando, Ernesto L.	908

Congressman (District 2)
Marañon, Alfredo III D.
unopposed

Congressman (District 3)
Lacson, Jose Carlos V.
unopposed

Congressman (District 4)
Comelec / partial official as of 12 noon, 05/1/304
320 of 921 precincts

Cojuangco, Carlos O.	43,048
Colmenares, Paolo J.	3,240
Dilag, Larry K.	614
Marquiño, Francisco P	515

Congressman (District 5)
Namfrel as of 4am, 5/12/04
134 of 997 precincts

Arroyo, Ignacio T.	9,069
Mirasol, Alejandro Y.	5,303
Lozada, Jose Apolinario, Jr. L.	3,579

Congressman (District 6)
Alvarez, Genaro Rafael III K.
unopposed

Mayor (Bacolod City)
Comelec / partial official as of 12 noon, 05/13/04
225 of 1281 precincts

Leonardia, Evelio R.	11,095
Valdez, Luzviminda S.	8,725
Flor, Celia Matea R.	1,694
San Joaquin, Benito D.	31
Quirino, Julio G.	28

Mayor (Bago City)
Nmafrel as of 4am, 5/12/04
46 of 377 precincts

Torres, Janet E.	3,835
Camposano, Jorge A.	2,400
Gador, Luis, Jr. A.	25

Mayor (Himamaylan City)
Bascon, Carminia G.
proclaimed winner

Mayor (Kabankalan City)
Zayco, Pedro Jr. P.
proclaimed winner

Mayor (La Carlota City)
Ferrer, Jeffrey P.
proclaimed winner

Mayor (Sagay City)
Javelosa, Fortunato S.
proclaimed winner

Mayor (Silay City)
Namfrel as of 4am, 5/12/04
119 of 311 precincts

Montelibano, Jose L.	6,353
Gamban, Carlo V.	6,266
Velez, Edwin D.	4,258

REGION 7

BOHOL
Namfrel as of 12 noon, 05/13/04

Governor

Aumentado, Erico B.	162,000
Relampagos, Rene L.	136,626
Peligrino, Peter B.	485

Congressman (District 1)
Namfrel as of 12 noon, 05/13/04

Chatto, Edgardo M.	100,475
Castillo, Natalio, Jr. R.	955

Congressman (District 2)
Namfrel as of 12 noon, 05/13/04

Cajes, Roberto C.	42,290
Garcia, Filadelfo A.	12,850

Congressman (District 3)
Namfrel as of 12 noon, 05/13/04

Jala, Eladio M.	85,278
Mendez, Leonardo	11,941
Balbin, Mario B.	4,816
Inte, Victoriano T.	308

Mayor (Tagbilaran City)
Comelec/ Final Official
Lim, Dan N.
proclaimed winner

CEBU
Namfrel-Ccimpel as of 5:08 pm, 05/13/04
4217of 13262 precincts

Governor

Garcia, Gwendolyn F.	109,437
Martinez, Celestino, Jr. E.	98,893
Osmeña, John Henry U.	54,751
Tuadles, Wellredo B.	1,671
Cezar, Rafael, Jr. A	1,595

Congressman (District 1)
Namfrel-Ccimpel as of 5:08 pm, 05/13/04
384 of 1682 precincts

Gullas, Eduardo R.	30,264
Rama, Enrique P.	10,449
Bolongaita, Alex A.	818
Lozada, Jose Mari C.	187

Congressman (District 2)
Namfrel-Ccimpel as of 5.08 pm, 05/13/04
419 of 1697 precincts

Kintanar, Simeon L.	22,252
Ortega, Orvi G.	12,966

Congressman (District 3)
Namfrel-Ccimpel as of 5.08 pm, 5/13/04
312 of 1417 precincts

Yapha, Antonio, Jr. P.	22,951
Cerna, Jesus P.	2,150

Congressman (District 4)
Namfrel-Ccimpel as of 5:08 pm, 5/13/04
228 of 1568 precincts

Martinez, Clavel A.	17,830
Salazar, Edwin F.	677

Congressman (District 5)
Namfrel-Ccimpel as of 5:08 pm, 5/13/04
383 of 1711 precincts

Durano, Joseph Felix Mari H.	23,601
Dira, Rosemarie D.	11,089

Congressman (District 6)
Namfrel-Ccimpel as of 5:08 pm, 5/13/04
1014 of 2315 precincts

Ruiz, Nerissa S	60,582
Ouano, Jovita Tuela Z.	40,822
Biaño, Victor C.	2,467

Congressman (Cebu City, District 1)
Namfrel-Ccimpel as of 5:08 pm, 5/13/04
625 of 1139 precincts

Del Mar, Raul V.	66,890
Fernan, Danilo M.	5,787
Villarin, Florencio O.	1,279
Arenasa, Juan U.	589
Fernan, Russo C.	231

Congressman (Cebu City, District 2)
Namfrel-Ccimpel as of 5:08 pm, 5/13/04
852 of 1535 precincts

Cuenco, Antonio V.	46,288
Batuhan, Aristotle B.	39,349
Ong, Manuel F.	7

Mayor (Cebu City)
Namfrel-Ccimpel as of 5:08 pm, 5/13/04
1477 of 2674 precincts

Osmeña, Tomas R.	94,305
Garcia, Alvin B.	72,704
Burlas, Ananias T.	535

Mayor (Mandaue City)
Comelec partial/official as of 12 noon, 5/13/04
252 of 763 precincts

Ouano, Thadeo Z.	26,047
Cortes, Ariston III C.	10,018

NEGROS ORIENTAL
Comelec/ partial official as of 2 pm, 05/13/04
1573 of 3035 precincts

Governor

Arnaiz, George P.	142,172
Tayhon, Lorenzo R.	1,618

Congressman (District 1)
Comelec/ partial official as of 2 pm, 05/13/04
580 of 956 precincts

Paras, Jacinto V.	49,266
Rabaya, Vicente B.	5,770
Vailoces, Auster A.	3,567
Roble, Danilo C.	165

Congressman (District 2)
Comelec/ partial official as of 2 pm, 05/13/04
104 of 1182 precincts

Macias, Emilio II C.	9,555
Remollo, Orlando V.	6,126
Torres, Samuel B	39
Aniñon, Raul S.	28
Mascardo, Henry E.	0

Congressman (District 3)
Comelec/ partial official as of 2 pm, 05/13/04
271 of 612 precincts

Teves, Herminio G.	22,371
Teves, Edgar Y	13 594

Mayor (Bayawan City)
Comelec / final official, 05/13/04
Seraña, German, Jr. P.
proclaimed winner

Mayor (Dumaguete City)
Comelec / final official, 05/13/04
Perdices, Agustin R.
proclaimed winner

Mayor (Tanjay City)
Comelec/ final official, 05/13/04
Salma, Baltazar T.
proclaimed winner

SIQUIJOR
Namfrel as of 11 am, 05/13/04
(complete/unofficial)

Governor

Fua, Orlando B.	23,554
Villa, Dean S.	20,380
Chan, Arthur M.	1,080

Congressman
Namfrel as of 11 am, 05/13/04
(complete/unofficial)

Fua, Orlando, Jr. A.	26,158
Olpoc, Epifanio, Jr. S.	17,662
Chan, Joy Dominic U.	457
Flor, Jesus J.	14

REGION 8

BILIRAN
Comelecfinal as of 4:52 pm, 05/13/04

Espina, Rogelio J.
proclaimed winner

Congressman
Comelecfinal as of 4:52 pm, 05/13/04
Espina, Gerardo, Jr. J.
proclaimed winner

EASTERN SAMAR
Namfrel as of 3 pm, 05/13/04
445 of 1567 precincts

Governor

Evardone, Ben P.	26,756
Salazar, Clotilde J.	21,668
Ambil, Ruperto, Jr. A.	11,249
Castillo, Jose P.	241

Congressman
Namfrel as of 3 pm, 05/13/04
445 of 1567 precincts

Libanan, Marcelino C.	37,450
Ramirez, Jose T.	14,984
Montes, Roy S.	5,892

LEYTE
Comelec partial/official as of 6:12 pm, 05/13/04
3211of 4534 precincts

Governor

Apostol, Sergio Antonio F.	166 587
Petilla, Carlos Jericho L.	212,805
Larrazabal, Adolfo E.	3,032
Sotto, Roberto C.	1,581
Pagayanan, Hermela P.	1,843

Congressman (District 1)
Comelec partial/official as of 6:12 pm, 05/13/04

Petilla, Remedios L.	54,890
Avila, Charlie	14,228

Congressman (District 2)
Comelec partial/official as of 6.12 pm, 05/13/04

Apostol, Trinidad G.	58,800
Villasin, Nestor P.	34,007
Horca, Manuel, Jr. L.	1,452

Congressman (District 3)
Comelec partial/official as of 6:12 pm, 05/13/04

Tumawak, Faustino Jr. C	20,156
Veloso, Eduardo K.	18,417
Veloso, Julian B.	1,585

Congressman (District 4)
Comelec partial/official as of 3:45 pm, 05/13/04
539 of 1049

Codilla, Eufrocino, Sr. M.	39,793
Locsin, Albert Mitchell L.	40,998

Congressman (District 5)
Comelec partial/official as of 6 pm, 05/13/04
575of 1016
Cari, Carmen L.
proclaimed winner

Mayor (Ormoc City)
Comelec final complete as of 8am.05/13/04

Codilla, Eric C.	36,894
Locsin, Carmelo J.	33,448

Mayor (Tacloban City)
Comelec as of 3.45pm, 05/13/04
320 of 457 precincts

Romualdez, Alfredo T.	40,777
Chan, Wilson L.	6,704
Sipaco, Renato O.	54
Chan, Edmund T.	3
Abrematea, Nestor L.	406

NORTHERN SAMAR
Namfrel as of 9 am, 05/12/04
610 of 1792 precincts

Governor

Daza, Raul A.	71,308
Balanquit, Sixto, Jr. T.	17,369
Morales, Teddy L.	670
Cabacang, Serafin, Jr. C.	595

Congressman (District 1)
Namfrel as of 9 am, 05/12/04
610 of 1792 precincts

Abayon, Harlin C.	49,366
Tagle, Pedrito D.	1,784
Ong, Nelson L.	743

Congressman (District 2)
Namfrel as of 9 am, 05/12/04

Vicencio, Romualdo T.	22,263
Abalon, Don L.	13,579
Lobos, Pete S.	102

SAMAR
Namfrel as of 3 pm, 05/13/04
759 of 916 precincts
in Calbayog City

Governor

Tan, Milagrosa T.	50,133
Roño, Mario S	39,652
Nacario, Melchor F.	3,618
Piczon, Claro B.	257
Llamado, Renato Z.	58

Congressman (District 1)
Namfrel as of 3 pm, 05/13/04
759 of 916 precincts in Calbayog City

Uy, Reynaldo S.	53,949
Tuazon, Rodolfo T.	51,108
Sabulao, Maria Clarina C.	54

Congressman (District 2)
Namfrel as of 10 40 am, 05/13/04
220 of 345 precincts

Figueroa, Catalino B.	14,795
Nachura, Antonio Eduardo B.	11,944
Raytos, Rodolfo O.	138

Mayor (Calbayog City)
Namfrel as of 3.20 pm, 05/13/04
759 of 916 precincts

Jusayan, Gerardo T.	4,073
Rosales, Virgilio Sr. A.	25,165
Sarmiento, Mel S.	28,611

SOUTHERN LEYTE

Governor
Namfrel as of 1 pm, 05/13/04
complete - 18 towns and 1 city

Lerias, Rosette Y.	107,052
Saludo, Ma. Salvacion D.	48,501
Parmis, Gil R	479

Congressman
Namfrel as of 1 pm, 05/13/04
complete - 18 towns and 1 city

Mercado, Roger G.	98,960
Saludo, Aniceto, Jr. G.	57,007
Geraldo, Vicente A.	175

Mayor (Maasin City)
Comelec / final complete, 05/13/04
Mercado, Damian G
proclaimed winner

REGION 9

ZAMBOANGA DEL SUR
Namfrel as of 2:25pm, 5/12/04
256 precincts

Governor

Vera Cruz, Romeo G.	16,654
Cerilles, Aurora E.	15,799
Polon, Fernando M.	38
Cadallo, Gadiel P.	21

Congressman (Zamboanga City)
Namfrel as of 12:01pm, 5/13/04

Fabian, Erico Basilio A.	99,628
Dalipe, Manuel A.	76,361
Camins, Reinerio C.	14,677

Congressman (District 1)
Comelec as of 9am, 5/13/04

Real, Isidoro, Jr. E.	60,828
Saniel, Rogelio J.	32,495

Congressman (District 2)

San Juan, Filomena S.	3,742
Cerilles, Antonio H.	3,501
Banghulot, Joseph B.	1

Mayor (Zamboanga City)
Namfrel as of 12:01pm, 5/13/04

Lobregat, Celso L.	100,929
Wee, Dee Ping L.	61,171
Mariano, Charlie M.	44,038
Guardian, Alejandro G.	740
Angkaya, Abdusalam P.	405

REGION 10-

BUKIDNON
Namfrel as of 2:33am, 5/13/04

Governor

Zubiri, Jose Ma., Jr. R.	99,388
Tablos, Ernesto N.	9,473
Catane, Wilhelmina S.	3,841
Valendez, Joel L.	476
Kiniman, Alfredo S.	115

Congressman (District 1)
Comelec as of 3 45pm, 5/13/04

Pancrudo, Candido, Jr. P.	35950
Acosta, JR Nereus O.	35658
Onahon, Daniel S.	715

Congressman (District 2)
Comelec as of 4 10pm, 5/13/04

Tilanduca, Reginaldo N.	33019
Guingona, Teofisto III OL.	30084
Ancheta, Berthobal R.	9222
Beltran, Nemesio G.	6742

Congressman (District 3)
Comelec as of 3 45pm, 5/13/04

Zubiri, Juan Miguel F.	59762
Gardonez, Fabian A	1757

Mayor (Malaybalay City)
Flores, Florencio, Jr T.
Proclaimed winner

Mayor (Valencia City)
Namfrel as of 11:30am, 5/12/04
360 precincts

Galario, Jose, Jr. M.	28,254
Catarata, Leandro Jose H.	23,723

CAMIGUIN
Comelec as of 4pm, 5/13/04

Governor

Romualdo, Pedro P.	31198
Gabucan, Jose Antonio G.	7958

Congressman
Comelec as of 4pm, 5/13/04

Romualdo, Jesus Jurdin M.	30929
Neri-Brandt, Ma. Esperanza	7093

LANAO DEL NORTE
Comelec as of 11:45, 5/13/04

Governor

Dimaporo, Imelda Q.	74,140
Mangotara, Abdullah S.	28,530
Angni, Ibrahim	141

Congressman (District 1)
Comelec as of 11 45, 5/13/04
667 precincts

Badelles, Alipio Cirilo V.	47,356
Quijano, Thomas Dean M.	6,420
Relova, Warlino M.	52
Jumao-as, Ferdinand V.	20
Siangco, Michael V	16

Congressman (District 2)
Comelec as of 11:45, 5/13/04
667 precincts

Dimaporo, Abdullah D.	40,146
Camiling, Gregorio	9,660
Radia, Ali S.	17
Basnar, Abdulbasit B.	3

Mayor (Iligan City)
Namfrel as of 10.30am, 5/12/04

Cruz, Lawrence L.	21,748
Quijano, Franklin M.	12,645

MISAMIS ORIENTAL

Congressman (Lone District)
Comelec as of 12pm, 5/13/04

Damasin, Erasmo	5,757
Jaraula, Constantino G.	66898
Ravanera, Manuel R.	5262
Jaudian, Manuel V.	2992
De Jesus, Flordeliza E.	836
Aseñero, Rodolfo L.	214

Mayor (Cagayan de Oro City)
Comelec as of 12pm, 5/13/04

Emano, Vicente Y.	85158
Soriano, Antonio	42588
Tamondong, Eddie U.	5198
Borres, Felix Jr. F	270
Lagrimas, Leodegario A.	262
Baygan, Herminigilda V.	104
Daleon, Jose Jr. N.	61

REGION 11

COMPOSTELA VALLEY
Comelec as of 12pm, 5/13/04

Governor

Caballero, Jose R.	158,343
Tirol, Trino G.	38,660
Pajanto, Rodrigo Sr. Y.	

Congressman (District 1)
Comelec as of 12pm, 5/13/04

Basañes, Raul B.	73,003
Zamora, Manuel E.	17,399

Congressman (District 2)
Comelec as of 12pm, 5/13/04

Amatong, Prospero S.	74,824
Gonzaga, Ruwel Peter S.	28,240

DAVAO DEL NORTE
Namfrel as of 3 30pm, 5/13/04
521 precincts

Governor

Gementiza, Gelacio P.	55,771
Sebastian, Roberto S.	11,419
Concepcion, Danilo R.	455
Adalin, Alejandro T.	229

Congressman (District 1)
Namfrel as of 3 30pm, 5/13/04

Olaño, Arrel R.	35,826
Alvarez, Pantaleon D.	27,767
Sator, Baltazar A	8,198

Congressman (District 2)
Floirendo, Antonio Jr. R.
unopposed/proclaimed

Mayor (Panabo City)
Comelec as of 9 30am, 5/13/04
68 precincts

Gavina, Rey P.	15,858
Adlaon, Rudy G.	3,619
Ugdang, Nellie T.	1,281
Bucio, Marnie M.	5

Mayor (Tagum City)
Namfrel as of 3 30pm, 5/13/04
521 precincts

Uy, Chiong Oy T.	38 291
Suaybaguio, Victorio Jr. R.	37,008

DAVAO DEL SUR
Namfrel as of 1pm, 5/13/04
1210precincts

Governor

Llanos, Fe E	87 887
Bautista, Benjamin Jr P.	84,939
Roldan, Carlos M	836

Congressman (District 1)
Namfrel as of 1pm, 5/13/04
1210 precincts

Cagas, Douglas Ra.	117,349
Almendras, Mina K.	14,349
Villaber, Pablo C	3,696

Congressman (District 2)
as of 3 30pm, 5/12/04

Bautista, Claude P.	10,349
Carrillo, Dominador F.	5,599

Congressman (District 1, Davao City)
Namfrel as of 11:45am, 5/13/04
3,213 precincts

Nograles, Prospero C.	138,953

Congressman (District 2, Davao City)
Namfrel as of 11:45am, 5/13/04
3,213 precincts

Garcia, Vincent DJ.	100,667
Lumain, Josefito G.	15,919
Badilles, Teofilo A.	2,340

Congressman (District 3, Davao City)
Namfrel as of 11.45am, 5/13/04
3,213 precincts

Lopez, Ruy Elias C.	85,857
Marañon, Teresita M.	20,305
Sang-an, Ruben V.	236

Mayor (Digos City)
as of 5/11/04

Latasa, Arsenio A.	6,090

DAVAO ORIENTAL
Namfrel as of 2:30pm, 5/13/04

Governor

Palma Gil, Maria Elena T.	56,381
Almario, Thelma Z.	49,821

Congressman (District 1)
Namfrel as of 2:30pm, 5/13/04
Malanyaon, Corazon N.
unopposed

Congressman (District 2)
Namfrel as of 2:30pm, 5/13/04

Almario, Joel Mayo Z.	25,728
Rabat, Carlo Luis P.	22,992

REGION 12

SARANGANI
as of 5/12/04

Governor

Dominguez, Paul Rene G.	13,477
Escobar, Miguel D.	8,988

Congressman
Namfrel as of 11am, 5/12/04

Chiongbian, Erwin L.	12,918
Domino, Juan	10,580

Congressman (District 1)
Namfrel as of 11am, 5/12/04

Antonio-Custodio, Darlene R.	64,411
Nuñez, Dioscoro O.	14,870

Mayor (General Santos City)
Namfrel as of 11am, 5/12/04

Acharon, Pedro, Jr. B.	65,380
Rivera, Ryan C.	27,162

Mayor (Cotabato City)
Namfrel as of 12pm, 5/13/04
531 of 577 election returns

Sema, Muslimin G.	25 914
Juliano, Estrellita T.	23,068

REGION 13

AGUSAN DEL NORTE
Comelec as of 12:30pm, 5/13/04

Governor

Amante, Edelmiro A.	64,198
Soliva, Nilo D.	58,808

Congressman (District 1)

Banaag, Leovigildo B.	8,818
Cabalan, Casiano, Jr. B.	7,994
Plaza, Charito	7,015
Buyan, Romeo C.	55

Congressman (District 2)
Comelec as of 12.30pm, 5/13/04

Amante, Angel	64,787
Libanos, Roan I.	52,816

Mayor (Butuan City)
Namfrel as of 3:15pm, 5/13/04
599 precincts

Plaza, Democrito II D.	47,676
Balanon, Emmanuel DR.	41,939
Emboy, Teodoro A.	1,566

AGUSAN DEL SUR
Comelec as of 12pm, 5/13/04

Governor

Plaza, Adolph Edward G.	94,654
Paredes, Celerino, Jr. S.	53,180

Congressman
Comelec as of 12pm, 5/13/04

Plaza, Rodolfo Rodrigo G.	98,878
Quijada, Reynaldo M.	46,276

SURIGAO DEL NORTE
Namfrel as of 3 30pm, 5/11/04

Governor

Barbers, Robert Lyndon S.	24,336
Matugas, Francisco T.	23,122

Congressman (District 2)

Barbers, Robert Ace S.	37,543
Preston, Michael W.	4,294

Mayor (Surigao City)
Namfrel as of 3 30pm, 5/11/04

Casurra, Alfonso S.	23,996
Sering, Nicanor	14,063
Cervantes, Nicolas Y	34
Arguelles, Jama A.	27

SURIGAO DEL SUR
Comelec as of 12 30 pm, 5/13/04

Governor

Pimentel, Vicente, Jr. T.	48,908
Tan, Mateo E.	10,532

Congressman (District 1)
Comelec as of 12 30 pm, 5/13/04

Pichay, Prospero, Jr. A.	24,802
Delgado, Mary Elizabeth T.	14,240
Dellezo, Simplicio G.	12

Congressman (District 2)
Comelec as of 12 30 pm, 5/13/04

Falcon, Peter Paul Jed C	10,194
Asis, Alejandro D.	8,478
Masangkay, Hernando A.	5,537
Bacolod, Cicero S	310

ARMM

MAGUINDANAO
Comelec as of 3.30pm, 5/12/04

Governor

Ampatuan, Andal S.	67,800
Matalam, Guimid P.	26,702

Congressman (District 1)
Namfrel as of 12pm, 5/13/04

Dilangalen, Bai Sandig G	21,374
Sema, Bai Sandra A.	9,609
Datukon, Arnel S	8,042

Congressman (District 2)
Comelec as of 3 30pm, 5/12/04

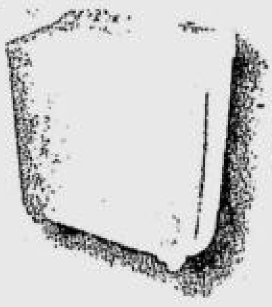
Datumanong, Simeon A.	67,603
Salendab, Mastor D	3,700

Compiled by PDI Northern Luzon Bureau, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau, PDI Visayas Bureau, PDI Mindanao Bureau, PDI Research, and PDI volunteers Erika Sarmiento, Jihan Jaafar, and Rissa Camongol

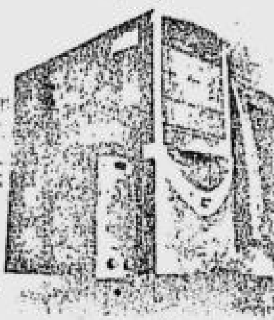
Loyola @35

RAFFLE PA-PREMYO

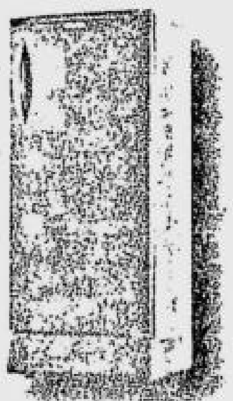
For all new planholders



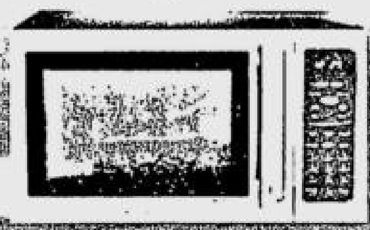
- Two (2) winners Sharp 6.0 kg. (13.23 lbs) washing Machine



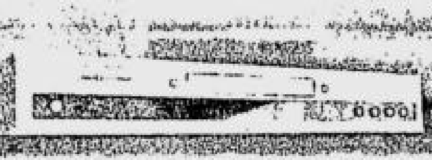
- One (1) winner Pentium 4 computer 2.0A Ghz, 40GB Hard Disk 128MB Memory, 1.44 MB Floppy Disk 38.1cm (15") SVGA Color Monitor amplified speaker, mouse & cover



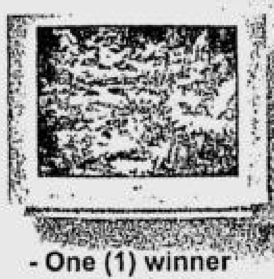
- Five (5) winners Sharp .22 m³, (8 cu.ft). Refrigerator



- Five (5) winners Sharp Microwave oven

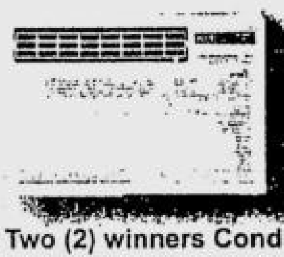


- Two (2) winners Sharp multi-system

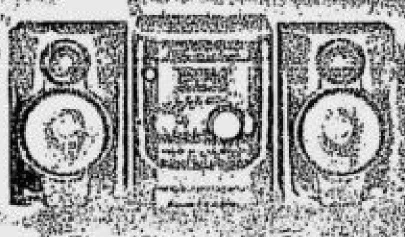


- One (1) winner Sharp 73.66 cm (29") Colored TV
- Three (3) winners Sharp 53.34 cm, (21") colored T.V.

- Five (5) winners Nokia 8310 cell phones



- Two (2) winners Condura 0.746 kilowatts, (1 hp) window type aircon



- Five (5) winners Sharp 1,000 PMPO Component w/cd player

Ten (10) P 1,000.00 to be drawn on a monthly basis

MECHANICS / GUIDELINES

How to join the Promo:

1. The "Loyola @ 35 Raffle pa Premyo" is open to all qualified individuals/ Planholders who will buy a Loyola plan from **January 1, 2004 to June 30, 2004.**
2. Employees of LPCI, its planning executives, including their relatives up to the 3rd degree of consanguinity or affinity are disqualified from joining the promotion.

Policies on Raffle Draw:

1. A plan holder earns raffle tickets depending on the down payment or initial cash in flow including advanced installments given as follows:

Down payment or ICIF	Number of Raffle tickets
5% of GP (3insts)	1
10 % of GP (6insts)	2
20 % of GP (12insts)	4
25 % of GP	5
Spot Cash	10

* Gross installments before discount

2. A plan holder earns one (1) raffle ticket for buying a plan with a gross price/contract price of **P100,000.00**
3. The plan holder gets a bonus of one (1) raffle ticket for every P100,000.00 gross/contract price of the plan bought, in excess of P100,000.00 gross price.
4. A plan holder shall fill up the raffle coupon with his **name, address, telephone number and affixed Signature** and drop boxes located at their respective regional offices.
5. For plans bought at the head office they can drop their raffle coupons at the ground floor Customer service department Loyola Plans building 849 Arnaiz Avenue, Makati city.
6. Only plan holders can join the promo.

Winning Policies:

There will be a total of ten (10) winners of **P 1,000.00** each.

Monthly draw schedule will be:
1st draw April 30, 2004 at 4:00p.m
4 winners will be drawn
Cut off date of submission April 19 at 5:30 p.m

2nd draw May 31, 2004 at 4:00 p.m.
2 winners will be drawn
Cut off date of submission May 17, 2004 at 5:30 p.m

3rd draw June 30, 2004 at 4:00 p.m.
2 winners will be drawn
Cut off date of submission 21, 2004 at 5:30 p.m.

4th draw - July 15, 2004 at 4:00 p.m.
2 winners will be drawn
Cut off date of submission June 30,2004 at 5:30 p.m.

2. A plan holder can win more than once in a draw. All non-winning entries per draw shall qualify for the entire succeeding draw.
3. Metro Manila base plan holders shall drop their raffle entries at the tambiolo located at the customer service department ground floor LPCI head office 849 Arnaiz Avenue Makati City.
4. Provincial plan holders shall mail their raffle coupon to, the customer service department, Loyola Plans Consolidated Inc. head office located at 849 Arnaiz ave. Makati City. Entries must be sent in a white envelope with The Loyola@35 Raffle pa premyo, name, address and signature written on the envelope
5. Grand raffle draw will be on **July 15, 2004** at Loyola Plans Consolidated Inc. head office at LPCI building 849 Arnaiz Ave. Makati City.
6. All winners will be notified through registered mail.
7. **GMA winners** shall claim their prizes at the Loyola Plans Consolidated Inc. head office located at 849 Arnaiz ave. Makati City.
8. **For provincial winners,** they can claim their prizes at the nearest regional offices located in their respective areas.
9. Prizes not claimed with in 60 days from receipt of notification will be forfeited in favor of the company with prior approval from DTI.

Claiming of Prizes:

1. All winners must present at least two (2) valid ID's to the LPCI office when claiming the prize.
2. All prizes are non-transferable/non - convertible to cash.
3. The 20% tax for the prizes exceeding P10,000.00 shall be shouldered by LPCI.
4. LPCI Management reserves the right to give final decisions in any case with DTI concurrence.

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1700 Series of 2004

Exit polls a mystery to many Filipinos

From page A1

"All of a sudden, we have this result. This time you suspend belief. You are hoping that it is wrong. As a layman, you cannot believe that 4,000 respondents can beat 40 million. Elections are supposed to be a dynamic exercise. But polling is just a snap shot."

He said elections "are basically conflict situations," which exit polls cannot reflect.

Some resist exit polls because they create the impression, rightly or wrongly, that their votes are not appreciated.

"They're thinking that their votes do not matter," Gatmaitan said. "I am saying that the typical Filipino does not want his vote to be diminished that way, to be projected, which (he feels) makes it meaningless."

Exit polls are thought to have been first conducted in the United States in 1964. They are carried out after voters leave polling precincts. Often, the respondents fill out questionnaires asking for their ages, sex, which candidates they voted for and why.

In the Philippines, prior to this year's elections, the Social Weather Stations had conducted three nationwide exit polls—in 1995, 1998 and 2001.

Unlike in the United States, field workers for SWS conduct the surveys in the privacy of the respondents' homes.

The results of past SWS exit polls had been accurate.

Accuracy aside, the recent SWS exit polls projecting a 41-percent victory for Ms Macapagal in the presidential contest have raised a political tempest.

Released a day after the May 10 elections and while only a fraction of total votes cast had been unofficially counted, the SWS survey was denounced by the Poe camp as tantamount to virtual trending.

How acceptable are exit polls to Filipinos?

Moving forward

Rod Reyes, media bureau chief of the Koalisyon ng Nagkakaisang Pilipino and one of the sober voices in Poe's camp, believes Filipinos will accept exit polls as long as these are done scientifically and the agencies conducting them are not infiltrated by outside groups.

"It's really about time we moved forward, with all the advances in technology," Reyes said.

Prof. Jose Abueva, an academic and an SWS trustee, maintains the public has a right to information and the role of surveys is to provide them "with valid, reliable and truthful information about public affairs.

"In the absence of scientific surveys, there are all sorts of claims about who is popular, who is strong, who is liked, who is not liked ... these are propaganda," Abueva told the INQUIRER.

Such claims are often dubious because they are used to promote the interests of a candidate or a party, he said.

This is where one of the functions of exit polls comes in.

Weapon against cheaters

"It could discourage cheating," Abueva said.

"If they are done very scientifically and we can demonstrate how deadly accurate they are, then the people will have trust in the exit polls, and they will be shocked if the results are otherwise ... In a way, it's a check on other claims."

Filipinos love a good fight and some people say such post-election surveys, which declare a likely winner on the basis of a few thousand votes, take the drama out of a political battle.

In effect, they add, exit polls also ignore the process of counting ballots one by one, which Filipinos have long been accustomed to.

Losers dream on

Abueva understands the resistance, especially by the losers. A poll's verdict, after all, can be ruthless.

"It deprives them of the uncertainty and [dashes] the hopes of those who will lose," he said. "[A prolonged count] sustains the hopes and the dreams of those who are bound to lose."

In the end, maybe it boils down to people's fear of the new.

Abueva said: "Universally, people are always wary of the unknown, the strange, the untried."

With a report from Minerva Generalao

Gov't awaits ...

From page A1

Camps Freedom and Glory in Mosul in Iraq were also repatriated to the Philippines.

Ms Macapagal had ordered a "clear-cut assessment of the safety" of Filipino civilians employed in US military installations after the latest death.

Bunye said the Iraq Team, headed by Ambassador Roy Cimatu, yesterday morning visited the camp which had come under mortar attack. Cimatu is expected to submit his recommendation to the President anytime.

Decision soon

"We will come to a decision very soon but we just would like to wait for the formal recommendation from the Iraq Team," Bunye said.

Ms Macapagal has instructed Iraq Team to reassess the security situation of the OFWs following the Wednesday attack on Camp Anaconda, a US air base in Balad, northern Iraq, which hosts more than 1,300 Filipino workers deployed by the manpower firm Prime Projects International based in Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

The attack in Balad, believed to have been perpetrated by Iraqi insurgents fighting the US forces, took place at 8:30 p.m. on May 11 (1:30 a.m. May 12 in Manila). The workers were said to be asleep when their barracks was hit by mortar.

Malacañang and the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) finally reconciled early evening yesterday their conflicting figures on the murder of Filipinos in the attack.

A Palace statement said the "Department of Foreign Affairs clarified that only one OFW—not four as reported earlier—died in the mortar attack on Camp Anaconda."

This corrected a statement by Ms Macapagal the other day that four Filipinos had been killed during the mortar attack on Camp Anaconda.

The DFA initially reported Wednesday one death, then four fatalities. Later in the evening, Foreign Undersecretary Jose Brillantes said, citing reports by Philippine Chargé d' Affaires to Iraq Eric Andaya, that only one had died.

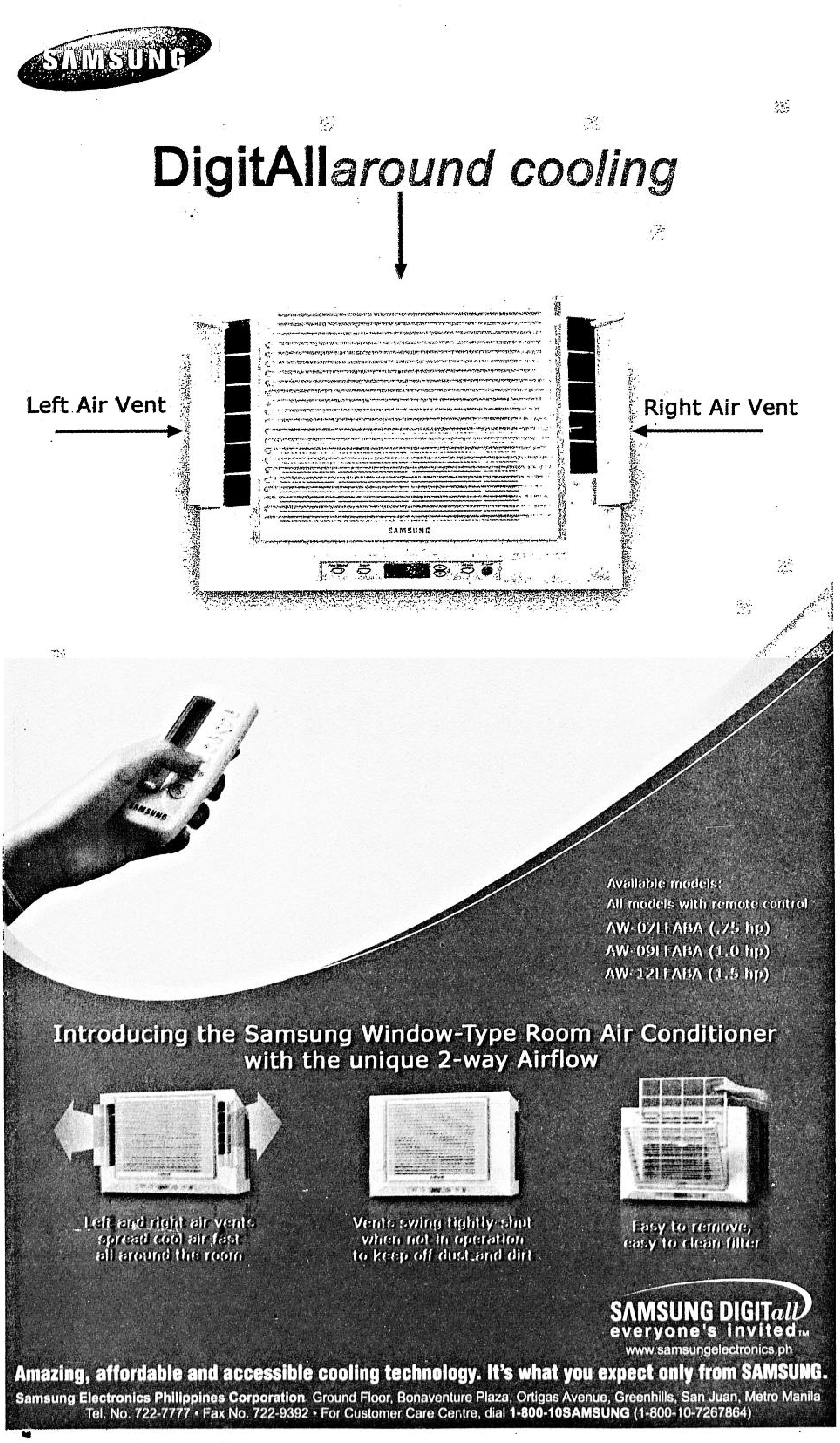
"What we know is there were at least four fatalities. We got the initial report yesterday (Wednesday) at around 11 o'clock (in the morning) and we made the statement based on the initial report. But this was subsequently corrected at 6 in the afternoon stating that there was only one fatality. And earlier this morning, there was a subsequent report that there were already two (fatalities)," Bunye said.

Contrary to Bunye's claim, the President's statement was issued after 6 p.m. on Wednesday stating that there were four fatalities.

"As of this morning, there were two confirmed fatalities. I don't have the exact number but we're glad that it's much fewer than as earlier reported. It's not four as of this time," Bunye said yesterday.

At the DFA, Brillantes said the family of Raymond Natividad, 25, a resident of Mabalacat, Pampanga, had been notified of his death. Brillantes also reported that three Filipino workers were injured in the attack. One of them was seriously injured, and all three had been airlifted to the Iraqi capital of Baghdad for surgery.

Natividad is the second Filipino civilian to die in war-torn Iraq. On April 28, a Filipino truck driver died in a roadside ambush in the southern town of Abdali after his convoy had just delivered supplies to Camp Anaconda. *With reports from Alcuin Papa, AFP*



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Tanong ng Bayan

INQ TV

Ngayong
alas-10
ng Gabi

Sino ang maghahari sa bagong Kongreso?

Lakas pa rin ba, o ang lumalakas na Nationalist People's Coalition? At anong papel ang gagampanan ng Liberal party? Ang fearless forecast nina Speaker Jose de Venecia (Lakas), Sen. Francis Pangilinan (Liberal), at Manila mayoral candidate Mel Lopez (NPC). Ngayong alas-10 ng gabi sa ABC, sa huling election special ng InqTV.

ABC

ELEKSYON 2004

NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION

Quick Count (Partial, Unofficial)

CALOOCAN CITY

Comelec, as of 10 pm, 5/12/04
9.625% of total precincts

	Congressman (District 1)	
1	Malapitan, Oscar G.	10026
2	Malonzo, Reynaldo O.	6328
3	Punzalan, Susana DG.	2176
4	Castalla, Saturnino V.	153
5	Quiroben, Mauro, Jr. B.	34

Congressman (District 2)
Comelec, as of 10 pm, 5/12/04
13.49% of total precincts

1	Asistio, Luis A.	7169
2	Gonzales, Benedixto, Jr. M	4737
3	Bagus, Tolentino J.	3480

	Mayor	
1	Echiverri, Enrico R.	14219
2	Erice, Edgar R.	8692
3	Malonzo, Gwendolyn E.	7409
4	Asistio, Macario, Jr. A.	6467
5	Orbe, Romualdo C.	52
6	Peras, Enrique, Jr. G.	14

LAS PIÑAS CITY

Namfrel, as of 5:50pm, 5/13/04
288 out of 1853 precincts

	Congressman	
1	Aguila-Villar, Cynthia A.	18953
2	Pulido, Roberto Rafael J.	289
3	Buenaflor, Nestor C.	1313

	Mayor	
1	Aguilar, Imelda T.	22076
2	Enciso, Leonicio C.	254
3	Antonio, Francisco, Jr. A.	199
4	Gonzales, Benjamin R.	121
5	Fabian, Francis M.	142

MAKATI CITY

Comelec, as of 6:45 pm, 5/13/04
50 percent finishe

	Congressman (District 1)	
1	Locsin, Teodoro, Jr. L.	44026
2	Bitanga, Mark Donald C.	5121

	Congressman (District 2)	
1	Aquino, Agapito A.	43603
2	Manalili, Antonio G.	12239

	Mayor	
1	Binay, Jejomar C.	90541
2	Ibay, Oscar M.	24759
3	De Vera, Amado III G,	580
4	Rempillo, Romeo T.	317

MALABON CITY

Namfrel, as of 10:30 pm, 5/12/04
787 out of 824 clusters

	Congressman	
1	Sandoval, Frederico II S.	64592
2	Lacson, Cipriano J.	49782
3	Cinco, Roberto T.	64

	Mayor	
1	Oreta, Canuto S.	48128
2	Yambao, Mark Allan Jay G.	38656
3	Sandoval, Jeannie N.	35393
4	Rojas, Melencio Melvick, Jr.	318

MANDALUYONG CITY

Comelec, as of 11:55 pm, 5/12/04

	Congressman	
1	Abalos, Benjamin, Jr. DC.	27426
2	Domingo, Ernesto, Jr. A.	12789
3	Lebron, Jessie B.	167
4	Seriña, Felix B.	56

	Mayor	
1	Gonzales, Neptali H.	28992
2	Buan, Angelyn D.	11251
3	Abalos, Arsenio S.	1745
4	Calibo, Narciso M.	51

CITY OF MANILA

Namfrel, as of 5:30 pm, 5/13/04
Congressman (District 1)

1	Nieva, Ernesto A.	29921
2	Quirante, Rodolfo G.	1964
3	Liguidliguid, Abraham E.	159

	Congressman (District 2)	
1	Lopez, Jaime C.	23790
2	Lacson, Marlon M.	23074
3	Mendoza, Robert Brent M.	167

	Congressman (District 3)	
1	Angpin, Harry C.	n/a
2	Roces, Miles M.	12018

	Congressman (District 4)	
1	Bacani, Rodolfo C.	20757
2	Bagatsing, Manuel S.	16298
3	Icaonapo, Jose, Jr. P.	1927
4	Sarza, Joel A.	57

	Congressman (District 5)	
1	Hizon, Joey D.	28234
2	Atienza, Alejandro I.	24950
3	Encarnacion, Gloria Wilma	268
4	Alvarado, Junel C.	175

	Congressman (District 6)	
1	Abante, Bienvenido, Jr. M.	16468
2	Ocampo, Rosenda Ann M.	13014
3	Veloso, Lucano M.	7940
4	Logarta, Julio, Jr. E.	4004
5	Lao, Caridad DR.	58
6	Nuñez, Romeo P.	52
7	Sunga, Emmanuel B.	25
8	Galla, Oswaldo D.	12

	Mayor	
1	Atienza, Jose, Jr. C.	174466
2	Lopez, Gemiliano, Jr. C.	79080
3	Cantal, Felix C.	1007
4	Abad, Onofre E.	382
5	Gamo, Antonio G.	262
6	Fernandez, Eduardo P.	220

MARIKINA CITY

Namfrel, as of 4:45 pm, 5/13/04
799 of 1,015 precincts

	Congressman	
1	Candazo, Romeo DC.	55937
2	De Guzman, Del R.	55339
3	Malana, Carlos F.	896
4	Rivera, Benedicto Luis A.	728

	Mayor	
1	Fernando, Ma. Lourdes C.	81694
2	Nablula, Jose Parsons A.	29718
3	Molina, Benjamin, Jr. Q.	1855
4	Curry, Richard A.	777
5	Maglajos, Evenicula P.	305

MUNTINLUPA CITY

Comelec, as of 11:30 pm, 5/12/04

	Congressman	
1	Biazon, Rozanno Rufino B.	20578
2	Boncayao, Patricio, Jr. L.	9865
3	Fernandez, Jacob L.	459

	Mayor	
1	Fresnedi, Jaime DR.	15952
2	Masangkay, Elizabeth A.	12786
3	Chua, Vicente Y.	4145
4	Balbanero, Pedro R.	321
5	Marmeto, Oscar A.	9

PARANAQUE CITY

Congressman (District 1)
Namfrel, as of 4:25pm, 5/13/04

1	Zialcita, Eduardo C.	13431
2	Banaga, Tomas, Jr. T.	9303
3	Nery, Jaime, Jr. J.	7738
4	Ferrrer, Walfrido N.	3228
5	Varona, Netz P.	239
6	Caunan, Menandro C.	181
7	Reyes, Bernardo P.	153
8	Pureza, Rogelio A.	136

	Congressman (District 2)	
1	Golez, Roilo S.	25980
2	Marquez, Joey P.	14758
3	Ballelos, Manuel Jr. E.	162
4	Montano, Pedro C.	103
5	Mesana, Elpidio, Jr. M.	78
6	Matti, Jose Luis Jr. K.	31
7	Sarmiento, Jose N.	2
8	Marquez, Doroteo Q.	0

	Mayor	
1	Bernabe, Florencio, Jr. M.	35453
2	Olivarez, Pablo R.	32118
3	Marquez, Vanesa L.	12375
4	De Asis, Maritess B.	397
5	Matias, Ma. Luisa B.	144
6	Flores, Fregie C.	143
7	Nery, Jose, Sr. C.	109
8	Villaflor, Ricardo V.	107

PASAY CITY

Comelec, as of 9:30pm, 5/12/04
175 out of 1372 precincts

	Congressman	
1	Dy, Consueto A.	7865
2	Calixto-Rubiano, Emi G.	6182
3	Evangelista, Justo D.	56
4	Cornejo, Crisanto S.	35

	Mayor	
1	Trinidad, Wenceslao B.	8066
2	Santos, Ricardo E.	6539
3	Marcelo, Romulo, Sr. M.	68
4	Alejaga, Rosemary L.	41
5	Penaflor, Noel-Francisco T.	15

PASIG CITY

Namfrel, as of 12 noon, 5/13/04
1573 out of 1974 precincts

	Congressman	
1	Jaworski, Robert Vincent	50827
2	Romulo, Roman T.	39500
3	Cariño, Noel M.	38739
4	Bernardo, Lorna A.	35570
5	Asuncion, Francis M.	643
6	Salcedo, Divino N.	134

	Mayor	
1	Eusebio, Vicente P.	82442
2	Lanot, Henry P.	75183
3	Bueno, Belen S.	9569
4	Benavides, Charmie Q.	4509
5	Iglesias, Alexander C.	3126
6	Fabella, Vicente F.	354
7	Obispo, Vener DV.	249

QUEZON CITY

Namfrel, as of 4am, 5/13/04

	Congressman (District 1)	
1	Crisologo, Vincent P.	11154
2	Puyat, Berna C.	9461
3	Sarino, Wilma A.	3255
4	Ramos, Montano DG.	1852
5	Samson, Moises S.	1404
6	Guerrero, Arturo III C.	238

	Congressman (District 2)	
1	Susano, Mary Ann L.	35701
2	Mathay, Ismael III G.	33621
3	Liban, Dante V.	21673
4	Agcaoili, Delfin, Jr. R.	325
5	Jimenez, Walter Wahab O.	277
6	Serrano, Enrico S.	

	Congressman (District 3)	
1	Defensor, Matias	22831
2	Planas, Michael F.	15871
3	Baja, Emmanuel S.	704
4	Cabochan, Anna Liza C.	

	Congressman (District 4)	
1	Daza, Nanette C.	23596
2	Suntay, Jesus C.	12030
3	Rillo, Marcel C.	1274
4	Infante, Jose L. .	78

	Mayor	
1	Belmonte, Feliciano, Jr. R.	162621
2	Mathay, Ismael, Jr. A.	46497
3	Co, Andres K.	638

VALENZUELA CITY

	Congressman (District 1)
1	Bularan, Romeo P.
2	Carlos, Jose Emmanuel L.
3	Gatchalian, Rexlon T.

	Congressman (District 2)
1	Lucas, Pablo H.
2	Serapio, Antonio M.
3	Tiquia, Carlitos B.

	Mayor
1	Carlos, Margarita C.
2	Gatchalian, Sherwin T.
3	Gunigundo, Magtanggol T.

SAN JUAN

Namfrel, as of 3 pm, 5/12/04
487 out of 519 precincts

	Congressman	
1	Zamora, Ronaldo B.	19755
2	Alcovendaz, Ericson A.	15026
3	Jimenez, Adam, Jr. M.	1302
4	Gonzales, Jose Mari C.	1232

	Mayor	
1	Ejercito, Joseph Victor G.	30457
2	San Juan, Enrico A.	6484
3	Marasigan, Edgardo G.	583

PATEROS-TAGUIG

Namfrel, as of 2:28 am, 5/13/04

	Congressman	
1	Cayetano, Alan Peter S.	94220
2	Garcia, Isidro B.	58379
3	Flores, Damaso S.	904

PATEROS

Comelec, as of 10 pm, 5/11/04
41 out of 176 precincts

	Mayor	
1	Capco, Rosendo T.	2355
2	Buenaventura, Willie E.	1619
3	Borja, Benjamin, Jr. U.	1123
4	Ponce, Rustico V.	244

TAGUIG

Namfrel, as of 2:28 pm, 5/13/04
97 percent finished

	Mayor	
1	Tiñga, Sigfrido	100466
2	Labao-Alzona, Ma. Loldao	59069
3	Quilitano, Ferdinand	376
4	Casas, Rene	338

NAVOTAS

Comelec, as of 3:30 pm, 5/13/04
420 out of 544 clusters

	Mayor	
1	Tiangco, Tobias M.	46147
2	Monroy, Salvador DJ.	16754
3	Marquez, Fredie A.	122

	Congressman	
1	Sandoval, Frederico II S.	38939
2	Lacson, Cipriano J.	21854
3	Cinco, Roberto T	130

Watchers foil 'dagdag-bawas'…

From page A24

mulo were leading the pack of congressional candidates for the city's lone district.

As of noon yesterday, Jaworski had 50,827 votes in the tally of the National Citizens Movement for Free Elections (Namfrel). Romulo had 39,500 votes.

Old-timers Noel Cariño had 38,739, and Lorna Bernardo, 35,570.

Comelec officials in Pasig said they could be ready to proclaim winners today or tomorrow.

Cariño yesterday claimed in a press statement that Jaworski and Romulo were already going around the city and proclaiming their victory.

However, Cariño said it was too early to say who won.

"It will be best for all candidates to await the final results and to be vigilant in the protection of ballots in the canvassing area," he pleaded.

Cariño, the incumbent congressman, noted that in the official Comelec canvass at the Pasig City Complex, he, Jaworski and Romulo were in a tight race.

Meanwhile, Matias Defensor, father of incumbent Rep. Ma. Teresa "Maite" Defensor, enjoyed a good lead over closest rival Michael Planas, according to Namfrel's count as of 4 a.m. yesterday.

In that tally, Defensor had 22,831 votes, while Planas had 15,871.

Defensor started out as a non-candidate but had to take over the candidacy of Maite, who had to withdraw from the race to attend to her sick child in the US.

Amid the count that showed Defensor taking the lead, Planas questioned the votes being counted for his opponent.

Planas told the Comelec that Defensor and Maite were not legitimate candidates.

"He (Matias) is not a candidate or a substitute to any of the candidates," Planas said.

He explained that neither Defensor's substitution for his daughter, nor for Anna Liza Cabochan could be valid because of spurious certificates of candidacy.

But Rhodora Aquino, Comelec officer for District III, confirmed that Maite had withdrawn. She also said that Defensor was a legal substitute for Cabochan, who also withdrew from the congressional race.

BECERA lies dead along Bonifacio Drive after being shot by a lone gunman Thursday. JESS YUSON

3 cops killed in 2 Manila ambushes

By Leila B. Salaverria

THREE policemen were killed in two separate ambuscades staged in Manila yesterday.

One of the victims, SPO2 Eduardo Becera, 44, was shot by a lone gunman while he was on his way to work at around 9 a.m.

Becera was a member of the security detail of Public Works Secretary Florante Soriquez.

Investigation showed that the gunman walked up to Becera near the public works office on Bonifacio Drive and shot the policeman on the head.

The suspect then ran to a motorcycle being driven by another man across the street and fled.

Sta. Cruz attack

About two hours later, two policemen were killed when a group of suspected robbers attacked them in Sta. Cruz.

Police identified the fatalities as SPO2 Ricardo Roxas and PO2 Romeo Napolis. Their companion, whom police named as Romeo Albay, was also injured and is in critical condition at the Metropolitan Hospital.

Initial police investigation revealed that the two policemen and Albay were on board a maroon unmarked Toyota Revo (XDU 423) and traveling along Mayhaligue Street near the corner of Severino Reyes Street when the suspects attacked them at 11:15 a.m.

Investigators said the suspects, who were aboard a heavily-tinted maroon Mitsubishi Adventure (WPP 412), had apparently waited for the victims' vehicle along Severino Reyes Street.

Witnesses said the suspects began firing at the victims' vehicle with armalite rifles. But the two policemen shot back and were able to radio for help.

At least one of the four suspects, who are all at large, has been confirmed to be injured.

Shootout

Witnesses told the INQUIRER that one of the policemen, later identified as Napolis, was able to get out of the vehicle and run to a nearby restaurant while shooting it out with the suspects.

But when Napolis was hit on the foot and fell down, one of the suspects followed him there and peppered his body with bullets. He was declared dead on the spot. Roxas was declared dead on arrival at the hospital.

Witnesses also said yesterday that the suspects had dragged a large bag, believed to be filled with money, from the victims' Revo before escaping. But police said another bag was also recovered from the vehicle.

6 men carrying poll returns held

SIX MEN who were allegedly carrying 10 copies of election returns in Pasay City were arrested on Wednesday night outside the canvassing center at the Cuneta Astrodome.

Police identified those arrested as Jimmy Morella, 50; Jose Moises, 44; John Luke, 38; Rodel Castillo, 25; Danilo Santos, 41; and Edgardo Hilario, 48.

A seventh male, Aniceto Sacristan, 42, a security officer at the Cuneta Astrodome, was nabbed after being chased by Lakas-CMD supporters on suspicion that he was a companion of the six suspects.

Police said the suspects, who were on board two Toyota Revos which were using security plates, were nabbed after a group of supporters blocked their way.

They accused the suspects of carrying copies of election returns.

The accusations, and the subsequent arrest, caused a commotion outside the Cuneta Astrodome, where the votes from Pasay City are being canvassed by Comelec officials.

Those arrested were later brought to the District Investigation and Intelligence Division of the Southern Police District.

The incident has led to the deployment of additional marines in the area to keep peace and order.

Almi Ilagan

Party-list groups want votes in quick counts

By Tina Santos

CITING the need to increase public awareness of the party-list system, two militant party-list groups have urged the Commission on Elections, the National Citizens Movement for Free Elections and the media to include party-list votes in quick counts.

"We have seen that few people are aware of the system, so perhaps the media can help educate voters by reporting on and monitoring the outcome of the election as well," said Ronald Llamas, Akbayan president.

He lamented that the reporting of election results focuses only on the presidential, vice presidential and senatorial races.

Llamas added that the increase in reporting would help the party-list system "gain recognition as a staying feature of our mainstream political life."

Surveys show that not so many people were aware of the party-list system.

Sixty-one party list groups competed in last Monday's election but, quick counts by the Namfrel and major broadcast firms do not show the result in the party-list election.

The system apportions seats in the House of Representatives to marginalized sectors.

The Anakpawis party-list group expressed fears that the delay in the counting of votes for party-list organizations might pave way for fraud.

"The government should ensure that the returns of party list polls are safeguarded," said Crispin Beltran, Anakpawis national political chair.

She needs a bone marrow transplant

JOYCE Ann Sarmiento, 16, who is stricken with severe aplastic anemia, is far from giving up.

She needs a bone marrow transplant to keep her alive, says her attending physician, Dr. Francisco Lopez of the Asian Hospital and Medical Center. But her family could not afford to pay P2.5 million for the operation.

Earlier, she was given an alternative treatment called anti-thymocyte globulin (ATG) and cyclosporine.

Lopez said she was doing well until a bacterial infection in her abdomen struck in December last year. She was confined at the hospital's ICU for 10 days.

Currently, she is at home and has recovered from the infection. But Lopez said the aplastic anemia persists, making her return to the hospital weekly for blood and platelet transfusion.

An appeal was printed in the INQUIRER's Metro section last February, and P50,000 was raised.

Lopez said she already has a donor, her older brother, who is a perfect match.

Donation in cash or check may be sent to Asian Hospital care of Joyce Sarmiento.

For more information, contact the Center for Bone Marrow Transplantation, Asian Hospital and Medical Center, at telephone number 771-9213.

Jocelyn Uy

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY

NOTICE OF INVITATION FOR YELLOW CORN ALLOCATION

The Department of Agriculture (DA) through the National Food Authority (NFA) shall be importing the balance of 340,000 MT yellow corn. All interested corn users and producers who want to avail of the corn allocation should submit their Letter of Intent (LOI) to the NFA and should be guided by the following:

1. The quality specification is yellow corngrains equivalent to US Grade No. 3 or China Foodgrade and Feedgrade category.
2. Arrival period is June 2004.
3. A P0.50/kg service fee shall be charged by the DA/NFA.
4. The cost of the imported yellow corn shall not be less than P11.00/kg, ex- 1st warehouse inclusive of the P0.50/kg service fee.
5. The 340,000 MT yellow corn shall be distributed by allocation to legitimate corn users registered with the Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI) and corn producers duly certified by the Department of Agriculture (DA).
6. The volume of allocation per category shall be as follows.

Category	Volume (in MT)
Hog Raisers	97,000
Poultry Raisers	100,000
Feedmillers	93,000
Corn Producers	50,000

7. All interested corn users and corn producers shall submit a Letter of Intent which shall include the total volume to be purchased, the preferred disport and the category to which the applicant shall be considered. It must also be supported by a BAI Certification of 2004 and a copy of the Board Resolution authorizing the individual to transact business for and in behalf of the company. For corn producers, DA certification with quantity of corn allowed to be purchased shall be required. All requests that do not contain the above requirements shall be rejected.
8. The maximum volume to be allocated to the corn user shall be based on their three (3) months corn consumption requirements as reflected in the BAI certification as of 2004. The maximum volume to be allocated to the corn producer shall be based on the volume of corn allowed to be purchased as certified by the DA.
9. Corn users and corn producers shall be given a period of five (5) working days within which to submit their Letters of Intent after the last day of publication which shall be from May 19, 20, 21, 24 and 25.
10. A Commitment Fee/Performance Bond equivalent to P1.00/kilo of the total volume allocated shall be paid by the corn user within three (3) days from receipt of the Notice of Allocation/Payment of Commitment Fee/Performance Bond. Payment shall be in Cash, Manager's or Cashier's Check at NFA Central Office, Matimyas Bldg., E. Rodriguez Sr. Ave., Quezon City.
11. Total payment shall be made upon receipt of the Notice of Payment from the NFA three (3) days before arrival of the vessel or the arrival of the documents whichever comes first.
12. The NFA reserves the right to reject any or all offers, to waive any defects or informalities found therein and accept only such offers which in its judgement are most reasonable and advantageous to the Government.
13. For further details you may secure a copy of the General Guidelines on the Importation and Disposition of Yellow Corngrains at the Marketing Operations Department, 5th Floor, Matimyas Bldg., E. Rodriguez Sr. Ave., Quezon City or you may call at Tel. Nos. 712-1572; 712-1928; 711-7433; 712-3341 to 54 loc. 8514 and 8515.

(Sgd.) ATTY. ARTHUR C. YAP
Administrator

(PDI - May 14 & 17 2004)

METRO
E-mail: pr_metro@inquirer.com.ph
Editor Abelardo S. Ulanday

SUERTRES 7 9 7

SIX DIGIT (In exact order) 8 3 3 1 5 7

SUPERLOTTO 6/49 15 24 25 27 34 41

Watchers foil 'dagdag-bawas' in Cainta

By Luige del Puerto and Tina Santos

POLL watchers foiled yesterday an attempted *dagdag-bawas* operation by a man and a woman inside the canvassing area at the municipal hall in Cainta Rizal.

Lawyer Eduardo Fabian, a member of the Board of Canvassers, said the two were caught in the act while trying to include manufactured election returns with returns from Monday's elections.

The prime suspect, the woman identified only as Neneng, was whisked away by Commission on Elections (Comelec) officials, while the man was detained at the 3rd floor of the Cainta Town Hall, guarded by Army soldiers.

A witness told the INQUIRER that she saw the woman enter the canvassing hall at about 1:30 p.m. while the BOC members were in recess.

The woman reportedly walked up to the table where official election returns were placed and included the manufactured returns.

The witness and other poll watchers called lawyer Wallen de Vera, counsel of the Nationalist People's Coalition, and apprehended the woman and the man, who was then waiting for her in the hallway outside the canvassing area.

"There were around 10 election returns which could have been sufficient to overturn the lead of Mon Ilagan," De Vera told the INQUIRER, referring to the mayoral candidate who has been reported leading in partial and unofficial tallies.

"We asked the BOC to exclude the election returns that were brought in. The BOC granted our request," the lawyer said.

Fabian confirmed that the BOC was not expecting election returns at lunchtime yesterday.

The alleged attempt to rig the results of the local elections happened as Ilagan appeared to be on his way to ending the 58-year hold of the Felix family on Cainta.

Believing that he had swept the polls, Ilagan, who built his name as a reporter of ABS-CBN, yesterday asked the Comelec to already proclaim the winners in the elections.

Ilagan expressed fear that any more delays could lead to cheating that would undermine the will of the people of Cainta.

He noted that based on unofficial tallies, he had led in all polling precincts in the town.

Even Benjamin "Ben" Felix, a former mayor and father of incumbent Nicanor Felix, said that Ilagan had indeed won even in their "bailiwick" of Barangay San Juan.

However, Felix claimed that it was proof that there had been "massive cheating" in the conduct of the polls.

The elder Felix thus asked the Comelec to stop the canvassing and suspend any proclamation of winners.

Ilagan laughed at the claims of Felix.

In Pasig City, neophytes Robert "Dodot" Jaworski and Roman Ro-

WATCHERS/ A23

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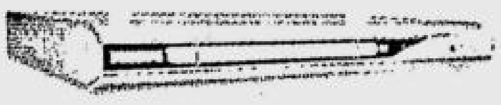

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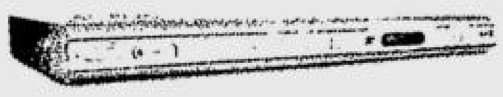

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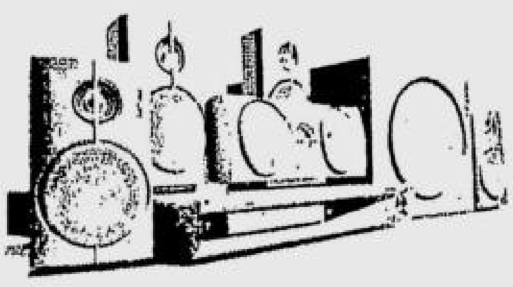

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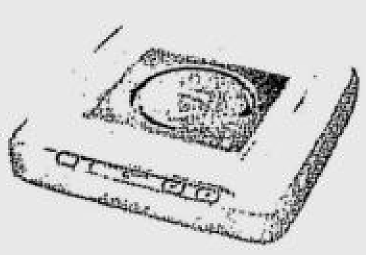

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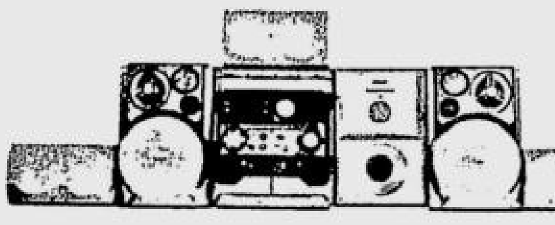

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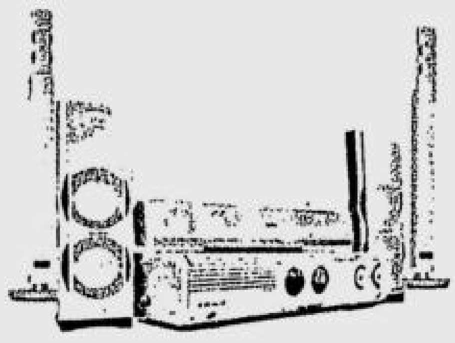

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Tiangco wins second term

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

WITH a lead of more than 32,000 votes over his closest rival, reelectionist Mayor Toby Tiangco of Navotas was proclaimed winner yesterday by the Commission on Elections.

Tiangco, 37, was proclaimed at the Municipal Hall yesterday evening even with 82 of the 544 election returns still not tabulated because it was already "mathematically impossible" for his closest rival to catch up.

As of 3:30 p.m., Tiangco already had 46, 147 votes. Another mayoral candidate, Salvador Monroy, got 16,754 votes while Freddie Marquez got 122 votes.

"The elections are always about the incumbent. If the people are satisfied with his performance, he will get reelected. I think my reelection shows that our people believe in the programs I have started," Tiangco told the INQUIRER minutes after his proclamation.

He said that in his first four years as mayor, he made the municipality the "cleanest and greenest" in the metropolis and improved peace and order.

This is Tiangco's second term as mayor.

Meanwhile, Caloocan City mayoral aspirant Rep. Edgar Erice conceded defeat yesterday to his former ally and leading candidate Rep. Enrico Echiverri.

Erice then called on his fellow candidates to "respect the decision of the (city's) electorate (and) put a stop to unfounded accusations, bickering and political immaturity."

He said he already congratulated Echiverri. He also said he was praying that the other candidates might "find peace and happiness even beyond politics."

Protests make canvass crawl

THREE days after the elections, the tally board at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium remained empty of election results for Manila and, in Valenzuela, the city Board of Canvassers (BOC) could not even release partial results.

The situation in the two cities reflected the pace of the counting of votes in the metropolis from last Monday's elections.

In both localities, the tally at the city level was hampered by complaints and petitions from the legal counsels of candidates.

Manila BOC chair Ramon Rosello said he expected to finish canvassing 30 percent of Manila's votes yesterday.

Mohamad Hassan, Valenzuela BOC chair, said about 30 returns had been contested as of 5:30 p.m. the other day. He added they would not release partial results to avoid raising a furor among rival camps.

Bomb threats

In Malabon City, the snail-paced canvassing was stopped by three bomb threats.

The police said security at City Hall was compromised after they discovered several duplicated Comelec-issued identification cards.

The lack of tabulators in Parañaque City led to the suspension of tabulation Wednesday. Counting, however, resumed yesterday.

In Taguig, no partial results have been released and no one seemed to know what was happening to the counting at the newly renovated municipal hall.

The Comelec said they did not want to be disturbed, while an officer said they could not release figures without the permission of Elections Officer Armando Vencilao.

Over by today

In Pasig City, Comelec Officer Romeo Alcazar said it would probably be all over by today or tomorrow.

Marikina Comelec Officer Pedro Rosal, in the meantime, said it all depended upon the pace of the auditors and their auditing machines.

Election Officer Ma. Anna Lacuestaof Mandaluyong said the canvassing in the city could be over within "three to four days."

In San Juan, Comelec officials said the tabulation could be over by last night or early today.

E-mail: pr_sports@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Teddyvic S. Melendres
Assistant Editor Edwin M. Villanueva

SPORTS TV
Compiled by L. Mangulat

BASKETBALL: 2004 NBA Playoffs-Lakers vs Spurs, Game 5, Western Semifinals; 8 a.m. (r-9 p.m.); Star Sports—The western semifinal showdown heads back to Texas as San Antonio hosts LA.

2004 US NCAA Final Four-Duke vs UConn; 5 p.m. (r); Solar Sports—Take another look at the epic matchup between two college powerhouse squads.

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Pacquiao still bitter over draw decision

PACQUIAO shows a still swollen left fist upon his arrival at the Naia with American promoter Murad. ROGER MARGALLO

By Tarra Quismundo

IT WAS a meeting of two men who had just come from a fight.

And they called each other champions.

Boxing hero Manny Pacquiao and reelectionist Manila Mayor Lito Atienza met again yesterday at the Manila City Hall, a few hours after the celebrated fighter planed in from the United States.

Pacquiao came home from a recent fight against Mexican Juan Manuel Marquez, who retained his WBA-IBF featherweight title when the judges scored it a split draw.

The GenSan-based Pacquiao knocked down the Mexican three times in the first round, in the process hurting his left hand which was still swollen when he showed it to photographers yesterday.

Later, Pacquiao also showed the blister on his left big toe, allegedly caused by the (US) 99-cent socks he wore.

Pacquiao, who was mobbed by fans at the airport, was with his business manager, Rod Nazario, and American promoter, Murad Muhammad, when he paid a courtesy call to Atienza at around 7:30 a.m.

Atienza said he would join Team Pacquiao in appealing the draw decision due to an error by one of the three judges.

"I am joining Pacquiao in protesting the decision to the Nevada Boxing Commission. Pacquiao won the bout and the error was admitted," said Atienza.

He was referring to an admission of judge Burt Clements that he was wrong in scoring the first round at 10-7 when it should have been 10-6 because of the three knockdowns. With a 10-6 verdict, Clements' final tally would have been 113-112 in favor of Pacquiao and not a 113-113 draw.

"*Masama ang loob ko. Napaiyak nga ako sa* MGM *pagkatapos ng desisyon*. (I feel bad. I cried at MGM after the decision)," said Pacquiao, who thanked his family and the Filipino people for supporting him.

The mayor said he was even willing to host a rematch between Pacquiao and Marquez, which he said could be held at the Quirino Grandstand at the Rizal Park.

However, Marquez had ruled out another meeting with the Filipino in the near future.

WHAT'S INSIDE

- Kings rip T'Wolves; Heat extend streak /A27
- Eala, Korean hold Asian league talks /A26
- Els, Singh after Woods' No. 1 ranking /A26

RP five departs for UAE

REIGNING National Basketball League champion Mediatrix leaves for the United Arab Emirates today for the 15th Fiba Asia Champions Cup tournament in Sharjah.

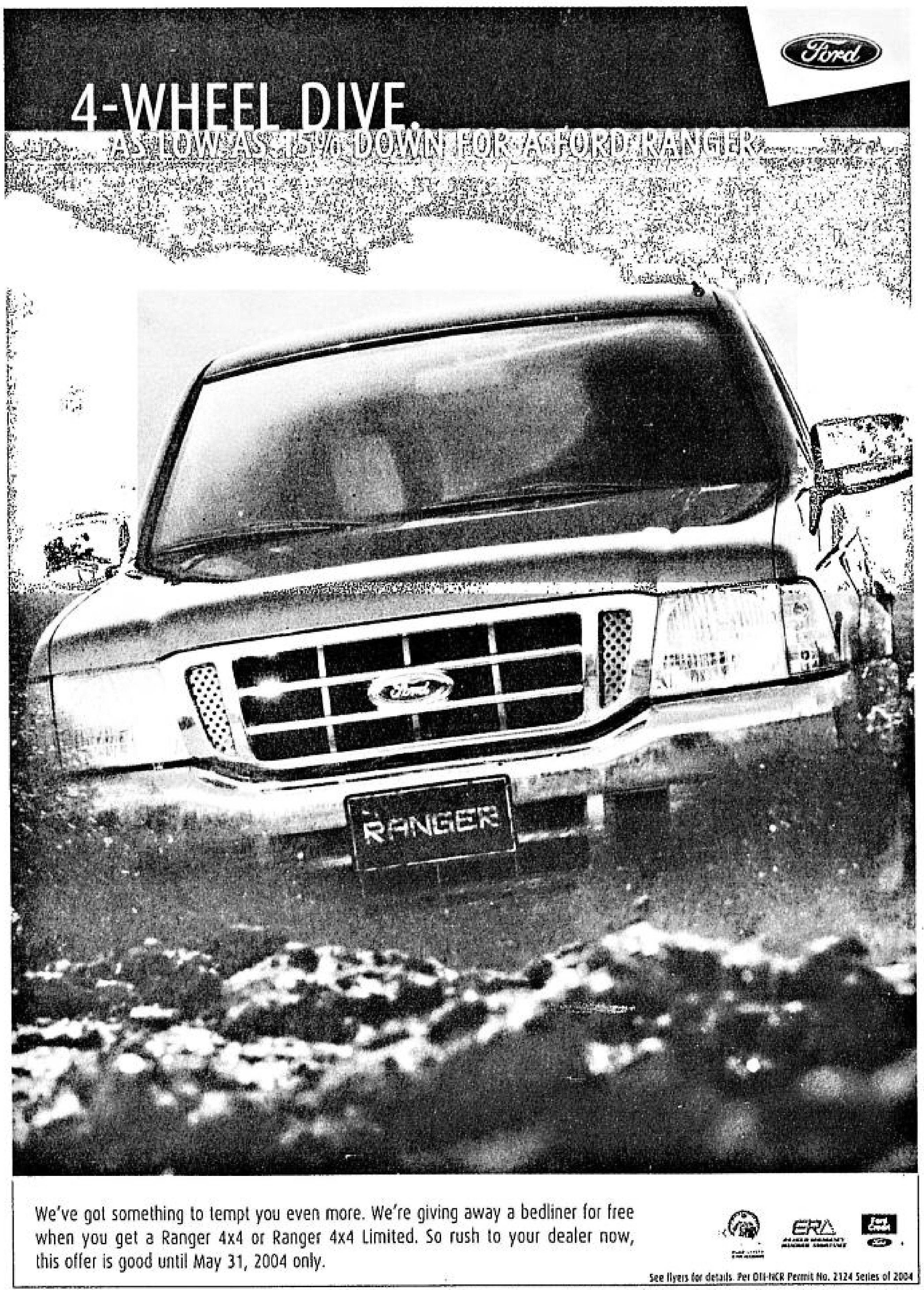
The team remains upbeat despite the absence of imports, as most of the 10-man field will be fielding in American reinforcements.

Monel Kallos will be coaching the team. He'll be assisted by Boy Cahanding and Joseph Ocampo.

Jon Nocom, the RP-Mediatrix team manager, and international referee Jerry Jimenez are also included in the delegation. They will be accompanied by BAP auditor and finance officer Tony Fabico.

The other participating teams are Wahdeh (Syria), Manama (Bahrain), Young Cagers (India), Sharjah (UAE), Rayyan (Qatar), Petronas (Malaysia), Sagesse (Lebanon), Sangmu (Korea), and Al Kuwait (Kuwait).

RP-Mediatrix will be led by 6-foot-2 Junel Mendiola, 6-4 Stephen Mapera, 6-6 Al Federizo and 6-3 Ramer Diaz. The other members are 5-11 Ricky Ricafuente, 6-4 Leo Villar, 6-4 Eric Araman and new additions 6-3 Jonathan Tarronas, 5-9 Romy Intalan and 6-2 Oca Montemayor.



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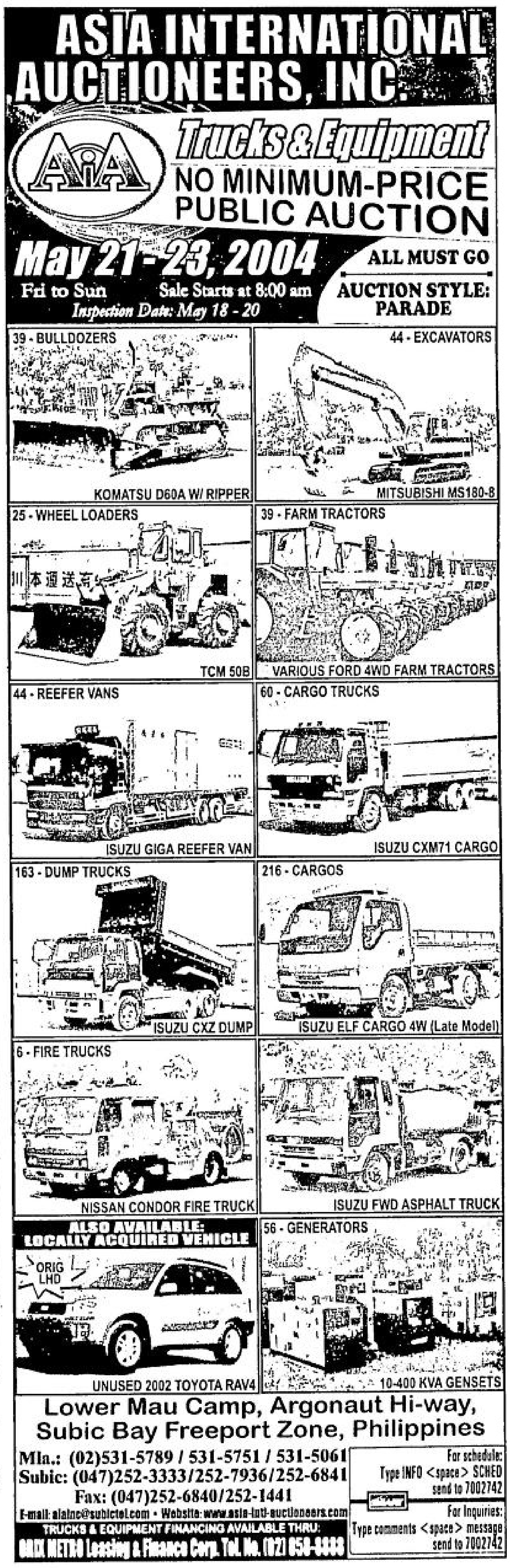

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Promo runs until May 31, 2004. See Posters and Flyers for details. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0478, Series of 2004.

Els, Singh after Woods' No. 1 ranking at Byron Nelson

IRVING, Texas—Vijay Singh has made a lot of noise about his desire to depose Tiger Woods at the top of the world rankings, but Ernie Els also is within striking distance.

South Arica's Els is a quiet No. 3, if that's possible. He already has won twice this year - once on the PGA Tour and once on the European Tour. For much of the final round, Els looked like he would win The Masters until Phil Mickelson caught fire.

Els followed up his Masters runner-up finish with a third-place at the Heritage before taking a three-week break.

Els returns to action at the Byron Nelson Championship on Thursday, the first event of a busy schedule he has planned of six consecutive tournaments culminating with the US Open.

Els, more than anyone, knows what it is like to be beaten by Woods. Back in 2000, when Woods was on his way to winning the chronological Grand Slam, Els played some very good golf, but was simply outclassed, as he candidly admitted.

"I finished second six times to him that year," Els recalled. "At the time, he was just better than anybody. If you brought your best game, it was still probably not going to be enough. I said that and I got a lot of stick for it, but times have changed now.

"Tiger is not playing as well as he did then. Guys like Vijay, Phil (Mickelson), Davis (Love) and me have elevated a little bit, and the gap has closed a bit. I think guys get to the first tee and really believe they can win with Tiger in the field. Golf will humble the best of them and that's where we are."

As Woods has returned to the pack, many have suggested it is time for him to reunite with old coach, Butch Harmon, from whom he severed ties two years ago. But that's not likely, if for no other reason than Woods is reluctant to admit he needs Harmon's help again.

Woods, for his part, has been working recently with Mark O'Meara's Dallas-based instructor Hank Haney, who is rather coy about their arrangement.

"I'm not saying I teach Tiger Woods," Haney said. "We're old friends. He respects my views on the game, just as he respects other people's views." Els, for his part, doesn't think Harmon would offer Woods any magic bullet solution.

"He knows his swing," Els said of Woods. "If he really feels he needs Butch, he'll probably call him."

Woods, Singh, Els and Mickelson head a star-studded field at the $5.8 million Byron Nelson, but all are casting an eye on Shinnecock Hills, site of next month's US Open. Els just hopes he isn't exhausted by the time he gets there. He heads back to Europe next week for two tournaments, before returning to the US for the Memorial, the Buick Classic and the US Open.

AFP

ELS

MASTERS WINNER
Amelie Mauresmo of France returns a ball to compatriot Nathalie Dechy during their match in the Italian Masters in Rome Wednesday. Mauresmo won, 7-5, 6-2. AFP

Coria ups clay streak to 28

HAMBURG—Guillermo Coria had a tough struggle before extending his unbeaten run to 28 matches on clay and reaching the third round in defense of his title in the Masters Series tournament here on Wednesday.

The second-seeded Argentine conceded a set for the first time in five matches against the Peruvian number one Luis Horna before coming through, 6-2, 3-6, 6-2, in a contest containing long rallies and strong feelings.

There were moments when it seemed these might boil over when Horna was advancing enterprisingly, 4-2, in the second set.

The players suddenly started arguing, with Horna yelling down the court at his opponent and wagging his finger, and Irish umpire Fergus Murphy looking a little mystified.

There followed a heated but distant dialogue between the two, but fortunately when Coria advanced toward the net to make a point, Horna decided against prolonging the dispute.

Nor would the Peruvian continue it afterward. "I'm not going to talk about it," Horna said. "It's my decision and I think it's a good one. I'm sorry."

AFP

Eala, Korean hold Asian league talks

By June Navarro

THE PHILIPPINE Basketball Association wants to go beyond the country's basketball borders.

Toward this end, commissioner Noli Eala had exploratory talks recently with a top Korean Basketball League official, Ji Tak Chang, regarding prospects of creating an Asian professional league where the best clubs in the continent will dispute supremacy.

"This could be the first bold step for the PBA to go global, something that I have been planning all along," Eala told the INQUIRER.

Chang, team manager of the South Korea Knights in the KBL, stayed for a week to scout for an import among the reinforcements playing in the current Fiesta Conference. Eala said Chang was quite impressed with Derrick Brown of Sta. Lucia Realty.

"They want to come over and exchange basketball programs with the PBA aside from exploring the possibility of an Asian basketball super league similar to professional football's European league," said Eala of his talks with Chang.

Eala added that Ric Burton, a top executive of the Australian Basketball League, had also showed interest in the formation of a regional pro league, suggesting a three-country tournament among Australia, South Korea and the Philippines for starters.

"But the planning will take a year at least before we could make it a reality. If all goes well, who knows, you might see the first regional basketball super league by September next year," said Eala.

With the South Korean and Australian players going on a break from July to September, Eala said the proposed tournament would not encounter scheduling problems since the KBL and ABL almost have the same calendar as the PBA.

Eala said the three-country event would just be a mini-tournament where the top two teams from each league would participate.

"This will definitely develop the potentials of the local players and at the same time help the league in terms of profitability and stability. However, much will depend on the cost of running such an endeavor," said Eala.

Viva nips Hapee

By Trina Ibarle

ARWIND Santos kept Viva in the game early and finished off Hapee with a monster dunk as the Water Force won a sixth straight game in the PBL Unity Cup after a 67-64 overtime decision at the Santo Tomas gym.

Santos was a virtual one-man show after scattering 15 of his 17 points in regulation, pulling down 11 rebounds and blocking six shots that raised Viva's league-leading slate to 8-1.

The Teeth Sparklers dropped to 4-5, the loss stalling their bid from clinching one of two twice-to-beat spots for the quarterfinals.

Blu Star, meanwhile, climbed into a four-way tie for third spot with Hapee, Montaña and Sunkist-UST after defeating the Tigers, 76-70.

The Scores:

First Game

VIVA 67 — Santos 17, Miranda 14, Raneses 10, Catli 9, Isip 6, Ybanes 5, Misolas 2, Rizada 2, Jones 2, Co 0, Yabut 0, Garcia 0, Sison 0.

HAPEE 64 — Oreta 18, Macapagal 13, Juntilla 6, Mercado 6, Tan 6, Mendoza 6, Moore 4, Omiping 3, Napa 2, Dy 0, Dualan 0, Cordero 0.

Quarters: 9-12; 22-28; 37-42; 55-all; 67-64.

Second Game

BLU STAR 76 — Dela Cuesta 18, Pascual 17, Aquino 13, Santos 9, Gamboa 9, Allad 4, Villamin 2, Canaleta 2, Ferrer 2, Tagupa 0.

SUNKIST-UST 70 — Compton 15, Hubalde 11, Coronel 11, Latoreno 10, Paterno 9, Luanzon 7, Capati 4, Vizcarra 2, Patrimonio 1, Santos 0, Raterta 0.

Quarters: 23-17; 37-all; 61-50; 76-70.

Red tops PDI caging

RED tripped Blue, 60-48, to win the recent PDI Inter-color basketball tournament at the Poblacion Gym in Makati City.

Hugh Jaymalin, named the tournament MVP, Jerry Ruiz and Sonny Cruz tallied double figures as Red dominated Blue.

White, powered by Genie Lagman's 28 points, downed Yellow, 76-66, for third place.

Jaymalin, Cruz, Jim Punzalan, Gilbert Rago and Eril Arazas made it to the mythical first selection.

Inquirer board chair Marixi R. Prieto, President Alexandra Prieto-Romualdez and senior vice-president for corporate services David O. Valdes graced the awarding ceremonies.

Villanueva proves self

VILLANUEVA

AS A college standout for Ateneo, he was nothing more than an oversized kid bullying the rest of the little boys. In the pros, he was snubbed by teams that badly need a center.

But the Philippine Basketball Association Fiesta Conference is starting to reveal a different Enrico Villanueva.

Here, in this transition tournament, the Red Bull sophomore is starting to remind experts of another player.

Clue: Two-time Most Valuable Player awardee. Fierce competitor on the court and jolly giant comic off it.

Villanueva is starting to show people glimpses of Benjie Paras.

"It's flattering but I really have a long way to go before I can even match his accomplishments," said Villanueva.

But it is not the sterling credentials of the PBA great that Villanueva reminds people of. It is the style and charisma he brings to the game that is familiar.

Like Paras, Villanueva is a gangling player relying on brute force to get his way underneath. He is a warrior, and nearly came to blows with such big men as Alaska's Ali Peek.

Wild gunfire marks Iraqi booters win

BAGHDAD—An outbreak of wild gunfire sounded across Baghdad on Wednesday as the country celebrated the football team's qualification for the 2004 Olympics.

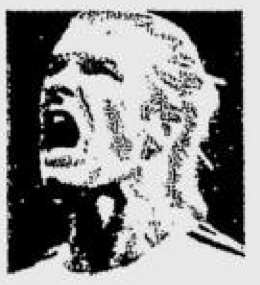
Iraq beat Saudi Arabia, 3-1, in Amman, Jordan, where it plays its home games, and with results going their way elsewhere they finished on top of the group. The win prompted the Iraqis to pick up their guns to celebrate.

The Baghdad skyline was lit up with tracer fire and flares for 30 minutes.

Their group rivals, Kuwait and Oman, drew 0-0, which allowed Iraq to sneak through to qualify.

AFP

The perfect match goes wrong


BECKHAM

MADRID, Spain—It seemed like the perfect match: soccer's most celebrated star playing for the world's most glamorous club.

Ten months after David Beckham joined Real Madrid, both sides are wondering where it went wrong.

The so-called "Galacticos" of Real Madrid are soccer's Dream Team — Brazilians Ronaldo and Roberto Carlos, Frenchman Zinedine Zidane, Luis Figo of Portugal and Spain's Raul Gonzalez.

Into the mix stepped Beckham, the England captain and cultural icon.'

After a decent start, his play has slumped. Off the field, his image as a devoted family man has been sullied by two widely reported extramarital affairs.

Regarded as the world's best club at the start of the season, Real Madrid will finish without a major title for the first time since 1999.

All this has led to strong speculation that Beckham could be leaving after just one season.

Newspapers in both countries suggest he may return to England to join Chelsea, where billionaire club president Roman Abramovich has spent millions to stock his club with new players.

Sold to Real Madrid by Manchester United for about US$40 million, reports suggest it might cost Chelsea US$70 million to buy him. Madrid president Florentino Perez is reported eager to rebuild the team and may sell Beckham to raise funds.

Beckham, 29, is also reported to want to rejoin his wife, former Spice Girl Victoria, and his sons, Brooklyn and Romeo, who remained in England rather than move to Spain.

Madrid has said it intends to keep Beckham, who has three years left on his contract, for at least for one more season. But a year ago the club had stated it had no plans to sign Beckham, only to buy him away from Manchester United.

AP

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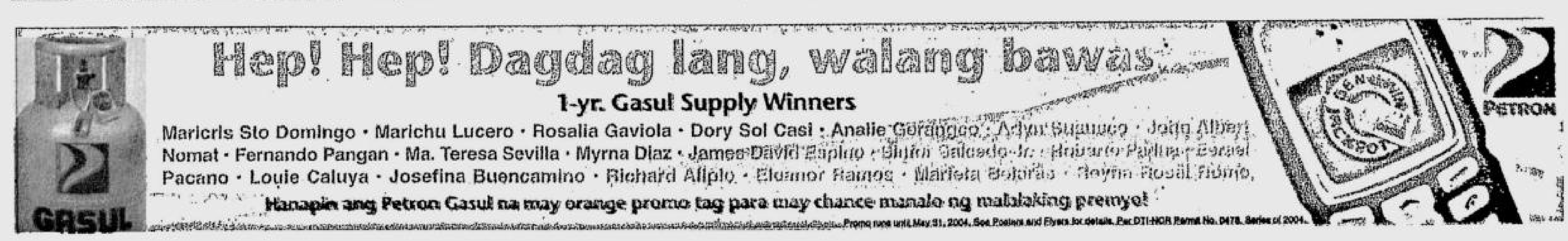
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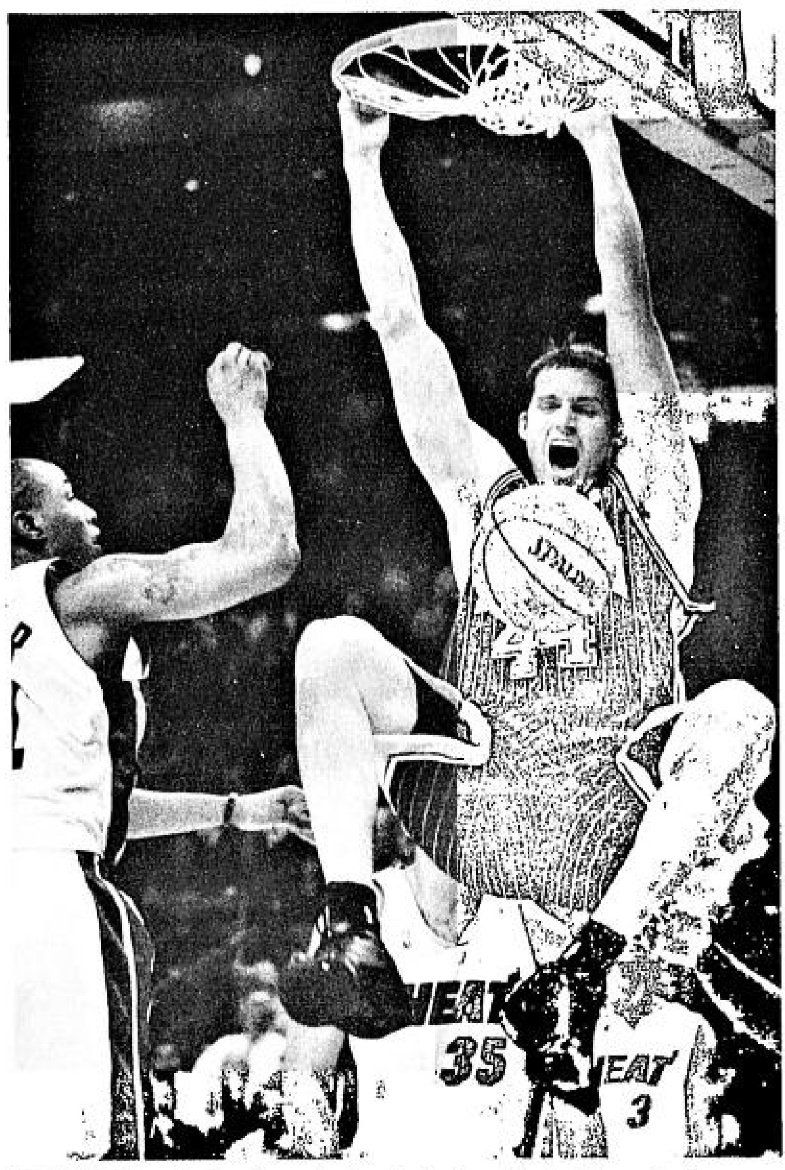
Kings rip T'Wolves; Heat extend streak



PACERS' Austin Croshere dunks the ball as Heat's Caron Butler moves in during their NBA second-round Game 4 Wednesday. REUTERS

SACRAMENTO, California—Chris Webber and Sacramento played with determination and desperation Wednesday as the Kings posted an 87-81 victory over Minnesota to knot their National Basketball Association second-round playoff series at two games each.

Webber scored 28 points and led a swarming defense on Kevin Garnett as the Kings got even in their Western Conference semifinal series.

The Kings had blown a 10-point lead in the final four minutes of game two at Minnesota and wasted a remarkable comeback in an overtime loss in game three, putting their season on the line.

Led by Webber, Sacramento played with a purpose on both ends of the floor. In the first quarter, he scored 12 points and was part of a defense that harassed Garnett and forced nine turnovers.

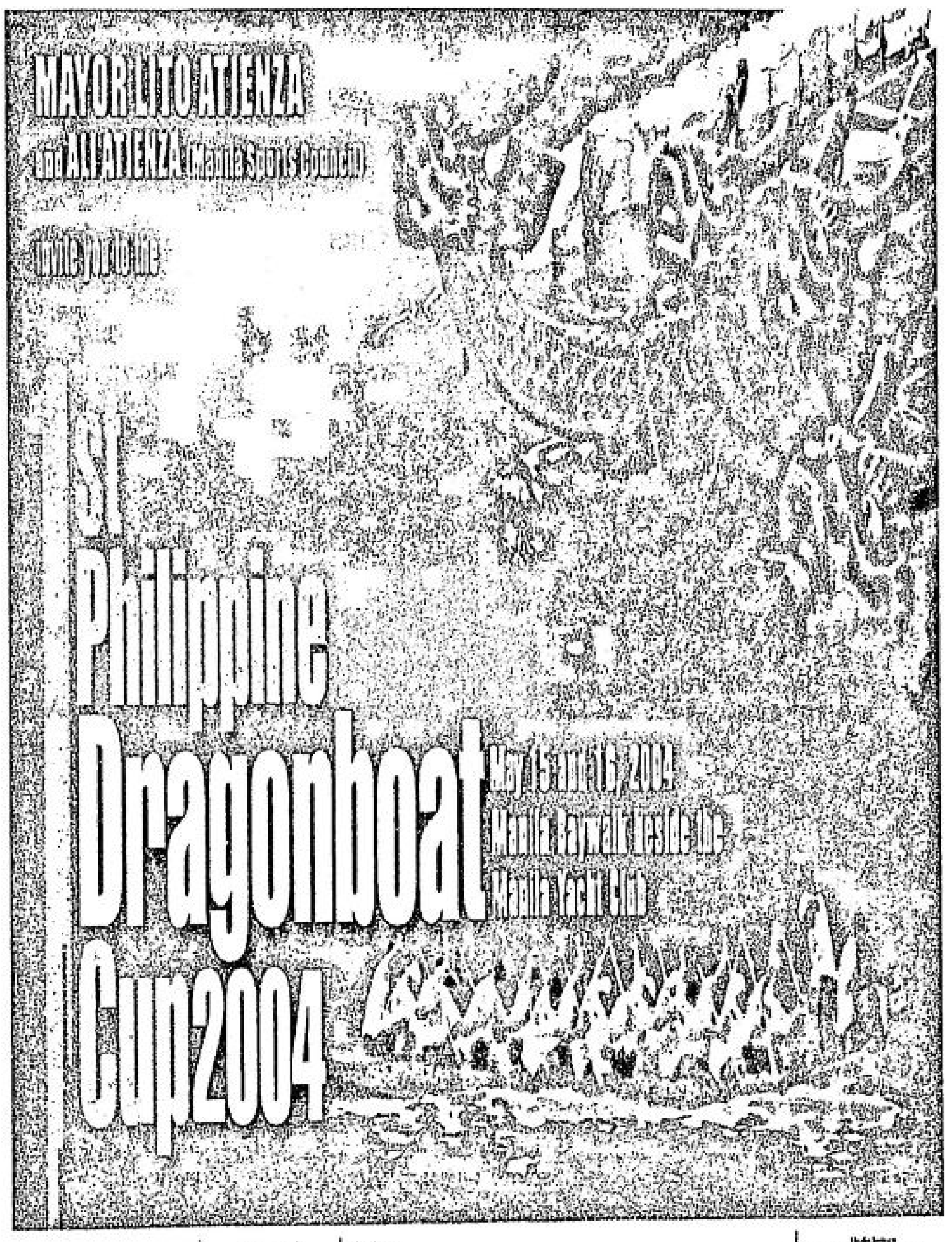
Minnesota battled back from a 17-point deficit to tie the game in the third quarter but could not overcome 40 percent (29-of-72) shooting or 24 turnovers. After a very slow start, Garnett made 8-of-18 shots and committed five giveaways.

Brad Miller scored 20 points and Mike Bibby added 15 and 12 assists for the Kings, who avoided their first three-game losing streak of the season.

In Miami, rookie Dwyane Wade made a pair of clutch baskets down the stretch as the Heat turned back the Pacers, 100-88, to even their Eastern Conference series.

The Heat won their second straight game against the top-seeded Pacers, whose frustration became obvious with some rough stuff late in the game.

AFP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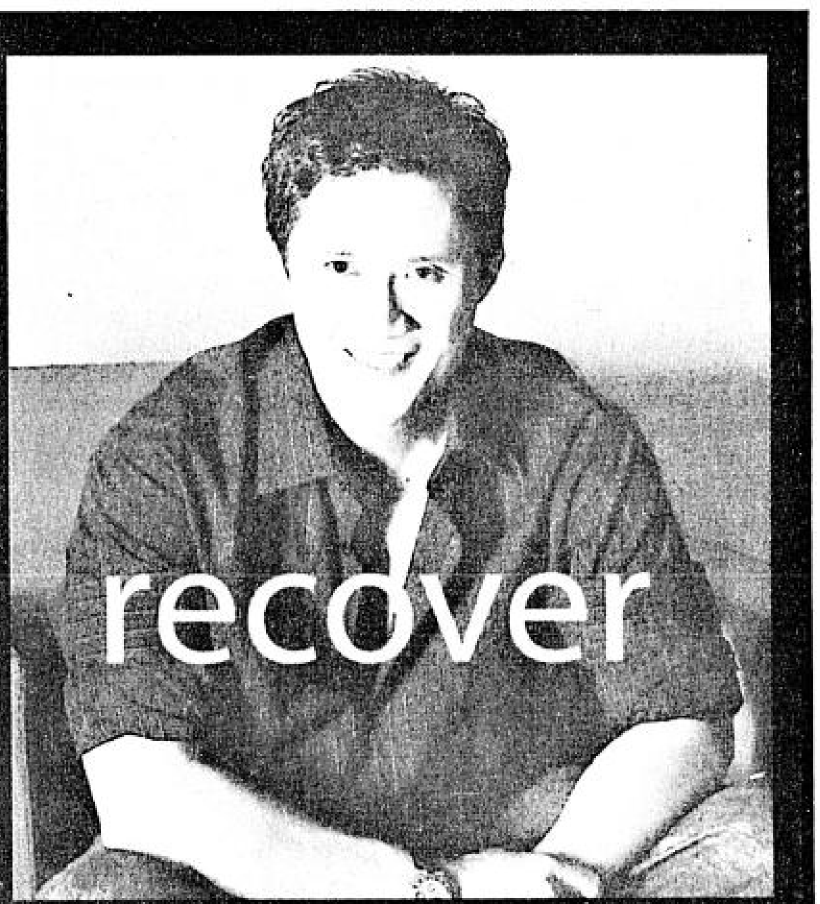

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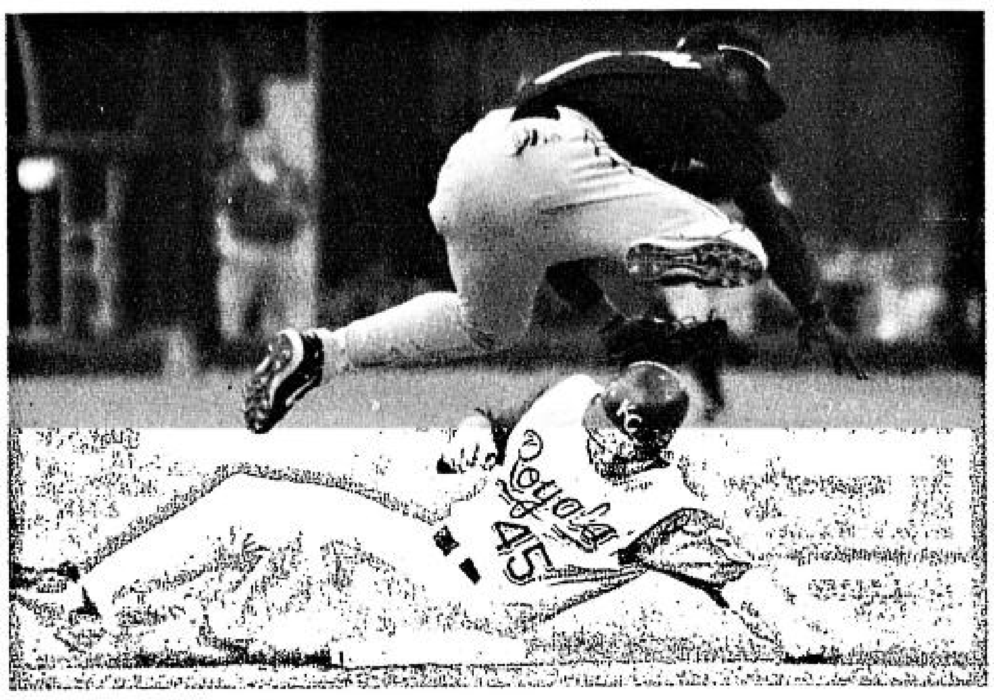


FORCED OUT
Aaron Guiel (45) of the Kansas City Royals is forced out at second by Orlando Hudson of the Toronto Blue Jays in the seventh inning. The Royals won, 4-3. AFP

Jones doesn't like to play Superman

LAS VEGAS—Things got so bad at the final press conference to promote his fight with Antonio Tarver that even Roy Jones Jr. had to leave.

It's hard to blame Jones, who has long since tired of hearing Tarver claim that he beat him the first time they met.

It didn't help that promoter Don King kept trying to get him to wear a Superman costume on Wednesday.

"He's the black Superman," King chortled.

Jones went out to the casino at the Mandalay Bay to shoot some craps while King droned on, only to eventually come back and pose with King holding the Superman costume, complete with red boots.

He even seemed to have a bit of a smile on his face, but maybe that was in anticipation of what he plans to do Saturday in his light heavyweight title fight with Tarver.

Though Jones has struggled much of his career to motivate himself for fighters who don't have nearly the talents he has, that doesn't figure to be the case against Tarver.

This is one fight he's looking forward to.

"Why I'm doing this is because my fans want me to shut this boy's mouth," Jones said. "I don't really want to kill him or nothing like that. I just want to show him that when I'm on my day you can't beat me at all. He couldn't beat me when I wasn't on my day and he definitely can't beat me when I am on my day."

Jones and Tarver meet for the 175-lb (79.379-kg) title Jones took from Tarver in November. *AP*

Big, fighting heart

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

THIS may be late but I will have to salute Juan Manuel Marquez. His having lasted the distance with Manny Pacquiao was more than enough proof that he really has what it takes to be a champion in two world boxing associations: WBA and IBF.

How many can really survive three knockdowns in the first round? And said knockdowns having been inflicted yet by one so powerful like Pacquiao?

Those punches were nothing but solid, enough to knock down three horses in succession, if not chop down huge banana trunks.

But rise Marquez did in each of the three times he fell. If you can't call that guts, if you don't consider that a sheer display of colossal staying power, I'll be at a loss for words to describe Marquez's Herculean strength.

Maybe, even if Pacquiao had a sledgehammer for a fist, he would not have succeeded in knocking out Marquez.

What a piece of engineering marvel, this Marquez.

Was he of the lineage of Emiliano Zapata, the legendary Mexican revolutionary hero?

In 45 fights, Marquez has yet to taste a knockout. He lost twice, but on points. The fight last Sunday nearly saw him suffer his first knockout loss. But Marquez survived that—and then went on to cling to his last mass of hope: a big, fighting heart.

No fighter has displayed so big, so tough a heart other than Marquez in recent memory.

Normally, a boxer getting decked in the first round—thrice at that—would not have the courage anymore, neither the strength, to survive the next round. If he did, he'd be a candidate to finally wilt in the third round, if not the fourth.

But not Marquez.

The 30-year-old king of the 126-lb division of both the IBF and WBA fought on gamely in the second, third and fourth rounds. By the fifth, he was brand new again. In the sixth, he even jarred the 25-year-old Pacquiao so badly Pacquiao shook there like a leaf I thought he'd fall.

Marquez a superman?

Maybe. But Pacquiao could be at fault, too.

He failed to nail Marquez in the last 40 seconds of the first round after scoring the third knockdown because, all too suddenly it seemed, he lacked the finishing kick to send the Mexican to dreamland.

Later, Pacquiao would tell us of an injured left fist—his killer weapon—right after sending Marquez to the canvas a third time in the first round. That could be a factor, but not as decisive as Marquez's uncanny ability to absorb—and survive—as telling a punch as Pacquiao's.

In America, historically speaking, a Filipino boxer unable to put away his opponent with a knockout would most likely lose the fight if it went the distance.

By earning a draw against Marquez even if he clearly appeared the winner, Pacquiao got a verdict that left a bitter taste in the mouth. Pacquiao was said to be in tears moments after receiving the verdict.

But it was not totally his fault that he drew with Marquez. The judges—particularly the one that handed out a 115-110 victory for Marquez to contrast the 115-110 win given by another judge to Pacquiao—were, ultimately, the culprits. The third judge did the most damage: He ruled it a 113-tie. Later, this judge (Burt Clements) would tell the Las Vegas Review Journal he erred when he wrote 10-7 instead of 10-6 in the first round in Pacquiao's favor. That derailed a 113-112 scorecard in favor of Pacquiao, thereby using the 113-tie to deflect a win on points by Pacquiao.

Be that as it may, many of the world's boxing pundits, including me, still believe Pacquiao was robbed of victory. The draw made Pacquiao the sorry loser and I wouldn't blame him had he shed a pail of tears moments after learning of the verdict.

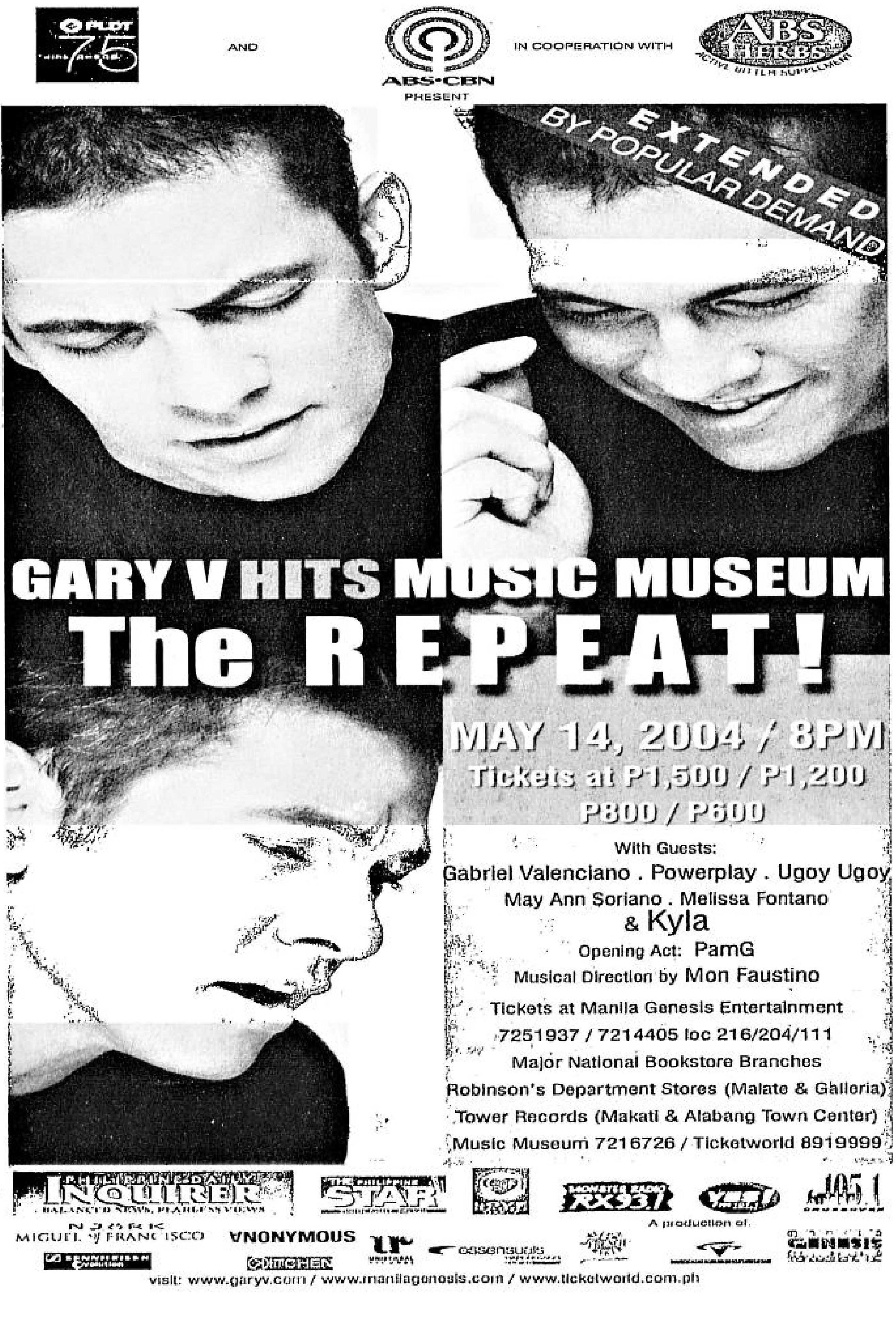
The draw had taken the form of a debacle that could only be avenged with Pacquiao earning a rematch in three months' time.

By then, Pacquiao would be more than ready to discover the right blow that should finally put Marquez to sleep.

Oh, yes, my prediction of a Pacquiao knockout victory before Round 7 did not materialize. But it is of no consequence anymore as to why that did not happen. I flubbed it, and I offer no alibis. You taunt me, fine. I'll take the flak, anytime. Without a whimper. Goes with the territory.

I will not even buy Murad Muhammad's line that referee Joe Cortez had taken two extra seconds to favor the fallen Marquez when Marquez suffered the third knockdown, thus robbing Pacquiao of a knockout victory in Round 1. That'd be tantamount to looking for scapegoats. I flubbed it, period.

Marquez proved to be a tough nut to crack and for that, I raise a glass to him. Even as Pacquiao, in my scorecard, had won it.



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Preakness Stakes up

BALTIMORE—The Preakness field is far from wide open.

Kentucky Derby winner Smarty Jones was made the 8-5 morning-line favorite Wednesday for the second leg of the Triple Crown, and will leave from the No. 7 post in an 11-horse field.

Smarty Jones and Lion Heart ended up being the top two betting choices for Saturday's 1 3-16th-mile Preakness. *AP*

RACING TIPS

AT SANTA ANA
BY MR. 999

Race 1—1. Flaming Heart 2. Time Will Reveal 3. Rebound
Race 2—1. Gabriela 2. Gleaming Heart 3. Break Away 4. Last Dance
Race 3—1. Bunker Bustrer/Bukambibig 2. Western Legend 3. Impossible Dream 4. Morning Nell 5. Tribeca
Race 4—1. Astig/Concorde 2. Elusive Quality 3. Gimme A Ring 4. Bininni 5. Native Prince
Race 5—1. My Little Pet 2. Cherish Emblem 3. Best of Ocean
Race 6—1. One Vision 2. Hawk Eye 3. Golden Cat 4. Tool Pusher 5. Magical Jude
Race 7—1. Race for Gold 2. Kitana 3. Do It David 3. Sierra Madre 5. Zarafun Mo
Race 8—1. Don Miguel 2. Vhingget 3. Lady Lawyer 4. Pirouette 5. Ichiro 6. Sharp Drive

SPORTSWATCH

Baguio beach volleyball under way

BAGUIO CITY—Minus the waves and the skin-peeling heat, tourists can now enjoy beach activities "in the mountains" when the city hosts the National Women's Beach Volleyball tournament and the X-series Games for men starting today. To simulate the beach environment, tournament organizers have imported sand and spread this around the competition area at the Athletic Bowl in Burnham Park here. The three-day tournament ending on May 16 will feature more than 20 of the best beach volleyball teams in the country. The top three teams will receive cash prizes of P20,000, P10,000 and P5,000, respectively. The X-Series Games is the city's version of the popular television series Extreme Games. It aims to provide a venue for the many skateboarders in the city to have fun and demonstrate their skills, organizers said. *Donna Demetillo, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Sy reaches 14-under semis

UNSEEDED Akio Hari Ong Sy rallied past Alvin Manalastas, 6-4, 4-6, 6-3, yesterday to reach the boys' 14-under semifinals in the Philta Classic 3 Age-Group Championships at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center. Sy will meet fifth seed Francis Casey Alcantara, a 6-1, 6-2 winner over third seed Mark Balce. Top seed Patrick Arevalo beat No. 7 Julius Lagman, 6-1, 6-3. In the boys' 18-under class, top seed Ralph Kevin Barte blasted Albert Villalon, No. 2 Janjie Soquino clobbered Juv Alban and No. 3 Miguel Antonio Pantua downed Nic Fernandez to book semis berths. In the girls' 18-under, No. 3 Kristel Samala outclassed Angelica Macatangay to advance against top seed Alyssa Labay while fourth seed Julie Em Botor demolished Olivia Molhant to advance against second seed Ivy de Castro. Girls' 14-under third seed Christine Patrimonio barged into the semifinals following a 6-2, 6-1 victory over Laurice Francisco. Other winners were No. 2 Zhane Quitara over No. 7 Katherine Ortega, No. 4 Jecille Ortellano over No. 6 Regina Santiago, and No. 5 Juzenne Mendoza over Kyrie Macias. In the girls' 12-under, No. 1 Sarah Jane Lim trounced JV Custodio, No. 2 Joan Therese Opulencia won over Kristel Buenacosa, Regina Santiago routed Marjoan Ong, and No. 4 Sally Mae Siso downed Clarice Patrimonio to enter the semis while advancing in the unisex 10-under were No. 1 Siso, No. 2 Jacob Lagman, No. 3 Tim Polero and Al Khady Jainul. Booking quarterfinal berths in the boys' 16-under were No. 2 Russell Arcilla Jr., No. 3 Pantua, No. 4 James Murrell, Johnwill Baldonado, Julian Lagman, Manalastas, Nico Katigbak and Ken Patrick Arevalo.

Arcilla breezes past Kraut

TOP seed Johnny Arcilla breezed past La Salle coach Roland Kraut, 6-2, 6-2, and second seed Joseph Victorino defeated qualifier Mario Sabas, 6-3, 6-3, yesterday to reach the second round of the P100,000 Mandaluyong Tennis Club (MTC) Men's Open at the NCMH courts. Arcilla, who ruled last week's Mandaue Open in Cebu for his third straight title this year, will face Luisito Clores, who won by default over Jaime Solon. Victorino, runner-up to Arcilla in Marawi and Misamis Oriental, will meet Gilbert Estrada, who scored a 6-2, 6-4 victory over wild card Tony Boy Villar. Third seed Adelo Abadia downed qualifier Yannick Guba, 6-2, 6-2, to advance against Joseph Arcilla, a 6-1, 6-3 winner over qualifier Neil Co, while No. 5 Alexander Lazaro beat Antonio Sagansay, 6-4, 6-2, to advance against PUP varsity player Rocky Paglalunan, who conquered qualifier Michael Tenoria, 6-2, 7-5. In other matches, sixth seed Elbert Anasta prevailed over Ricardo Lagac, 6-2, 7-5, No. 7 Chimiel Mantua clobbered Michael Mora III, 6-3, 6-0, No. 8 Jesus Lapore defeated qualifier Pius Ocampo, 6-2, 6-4, Ricky Catito outclassed Michael Quinones, 6-0, 6-2, qualifier Gabby Remigio conquered wild card Reynate de Castro, 6-4, 6-1, qualifier Jandrick de Castro downed wild card Vernon Salas, 6-1, 6-3, and qualifier Bo Alburo defeated Joel Palao, 6-4, 6-3.

Gin Kings SCOOP guests

BARANGAY Ginebra team manager Allan Caidic, coach Siot Tanquincen and some of their key players will be the guests in today's SCOOP sa Kamayan weekly session at the Kamayan Restaurant on Padre Faura Street in Manila. Caidic and company will try to asses the Kings' chances in the ongoing PBA Fiesta Conference. Also expected to attend the session sponsored by the Triple V Group of Companies and Photokina Marketing are import Torraye Braggs and local standouts Eric Menk, Mark Caguioa, Bal David, Rommel Adducul and Jayjay Helterbrand. Today's session starts at 11 a.m. and will be aired live over Sports Radio.

Super 4-cock derby today at PCC

BIG-TIME cockers are competing in another super 4-cock derby today at the air-conditioned Pasay City Cockpit. Hosted by National Cockers Association member Pol Estrella, the derby is sponsored by Sagupaan Hammer, Sagupaan Mite Free, Sagupaan B-50 Forten and Sagupaan Complexor 3000. "This will be an exciting showdown of Araneta Coliseum-based NCA and Pasay Cockpit-based PCCA," said Pol Estrellado. Meanwhile, the Royal Flash entry of Benjie Lim and Spartan's Blood of tabloid executive Rey Briones emerged co-champions in last week's Pasay Cockpit Cockers Association 4-Cock Derby. The eighth and final leg of PCCA derby will be held on May 21, where the Cocker of the Year winner will be known. For details, contact 8431746, 8431890 and 8166750.

RP FIVE TEAM BUILDING IN LAGUNA
The newly formed RP Cebuana Lhuillier training pool team players, together with its coaching staff, underwent a three-day team building recently at the La Corona de Pagsanjan in Laguna with the objective of setting the vision and mission of the team, as well as expectations from the players and the coaching staff. Photo shows the players doing the Trust Fall event, one of the many team-building activities they underwent with Lito Cinco as workshop facilitator.

Radically contrasting realities on the show biz scene

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

FILIPINO films are in the dumps, while local TV is booming. Is there any correlation between these two radically contrasting realities on the show biz scene?

At a recent meeting of media people, our group discussed this topic extensively, and came up with these prime points:

o Local movies started flopping not really as a direct result of the TV boom but due to the country's economic slump. Since TV can be viewed for "free," and the price of movie tickets has gone up, viewers naturally prefer watching TV to going to the movies.

o In addition, moviegoers have gotten tired of predictable quickies and sleazies, so they now favor Hollywood blockbusters over local movies. This has radically cut down the number of new Filipino film projects, a sad situation which we hope can be reversed starting this year.

o Since people stay at home more often these days to save on transportation and entertainment expenses, TV has been the natural beneficiary of these cost-cutting gambits on the public's part.

o In addition, TV has benefited greatly from its increased cachet as today's advertising, news and entertainment medium of choice, especially among the youth, who now comprise the country's largest audience and market.

o Another major addition to TV's income has resulted from the 2004 elections, which infused extra billions' worth of advertising revenue from airing of candidates' TV spots and plugs.

o Many movie stars now find more gainful employment on TV shows, rather than in the movies. That's the supreme irony of the current situation: Instead of competing with TV to keep it from gaining ground, movie people have even helped the newer medium become more popular by lending their star value to it. Thus, the movies are partly to blame for their now being so thoroughly upstaged by TV.

o Local TV has become stronger and even more popular by targeting Filipino communities abroad. They used to be exclusively serviced by tapes of old Filipino movies, but TFC and other "outbound" Filipino channels now provide that entertainment service—and much more.

Is there any way out of this dire situation for the local film industry? Some people suggest that producers should concentrate on

Moviegoers have gotten tired of quickies

RADICALLY/ A30

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ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

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Ali 4	VAN HELSING
Ali 5	DUDA
Ali 6	KIROT SA DIBDIB
Ali 7	JERSEY GIRL

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1	JERSEY GIRL	11:50, 2:25, 4:55, 7:25, 10:00	PG-13
2	TROY	1:00, 4:30, 8:00, 11:30	PG-13
3	TROY	11:40, 3:10, 6:40, 10:10	PG-13
4	VAN HELSING	11:20, 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00	PG 13

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DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

JERSEY GIRL PG13 12:50, 3:10, 5:30, 7:50, 10:10	VAN HELSING PG13 1:20, 4:10, 7:00, 9:50	TROY PG13 11:40, 2:50, 6:00, 9:10
TROY PG13 12:25, 3.35, 6:45, 9:55	CONFESSIONS OF A TEENAGE DRAMA QUEEN GP 12:05, 2:00, 3:55, 5:50, 7:45, 9:40	TROY PG13 1:10, 4.20, 10:40

MATINEE P80.00 - FREE SEATING - SCREENINGS BEFORE 5 PM - MON. TO FRI.

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	SEX BOMB / RAMPADORA
ODEON	X-MEN 2
ODEON-2	BUKID AY BASA / KASIBULAN
ROBEN	BOLD STAR
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	SPY LEGEND OF CROCODILE
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET A	KIROT SA DIBDIB
CORONET B	A MAN APART
QUEZON-1	BERTUD NG PUTIK
REMAR	X-MEN 2
REMAR-2	BOLD STAR
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	KIROT DA DIBDIB
B	CLOSED
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CINEMA-2	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	STARSKY & HUTCH
CINEMA-2	KIROT SA DIBDIB
CINEMA-3	WHOLE 10 YARDS
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	CONFESSION OF DRAMA QUEEN
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	MAN ON FIRE
CINEMA-6	HELLBOY
CINEMA-7	SEX EDUCATION
CINEMA-8	ANIMAL
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	TROY
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	TROY
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	JERSEY GIRL
CINEMA-12	MY WIFE IS A GANGSTER
CINEMA-14	VAN HELSING
CINEMA-15	I WILL SURVIVE
LORES	
CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN	
(LAS PIÑAS)	TROY
CINEMA-1	PAYCHECK
CINEMA-2	HELLBOY
CINEMA-4	STARSKY & HUTCH
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARAÑAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA

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CINEMA 1	VAN HELSING 12:05, 3:00, 5:55, 8:50	P13
CINEMA 2	TROY 11:30, 2:55, 6:20, 9:50	P13

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CINEMA 1 THX — TROY 12:45, 4:00, 7:15, 10:30

2 JERSEY GIRL 10 15, 12 30, 2.50, 5.10, 7.30, 9 50	3 TROY 11.15, 2.30, 5.45, 9 00	4 MY WIFE IS A GANGSTER 11 55, 2 05, 4 15, 6 25, 8.35, 10,30
5 TROY 12.15, 3 30, 6 45, 10.00	6 VAN HELSING 10.30, 1 25, 4 20, 7 15, 10 00	7 CITY OF GOD 11.20 2 00 4 40, 7.20, 10 00
8 I WILL SURVIVE 10:35 12 50 3 05, 5 20, 7:35, 9 50	9 CONFESSIONS OF A TEENAGE DRAMA QUEEN 12 40, 2 55, 5.10, 7.25, 9 40	10 MAN ON FIRE 12 40, 3 40 6 40 9 40

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ERMITA 526-7185 / 536-7809 to 12

1 VAN HELSING 10:30, 1:20, 4:10, 7:00, 9:50

2 I WILL SURVIVE 10 50, 1 00, 3 10, 5 20, 7 30, 9 40	3 TROY 10 15, 1 15, 4 15, 7.15, 10 00	4 TROY 11:30, 2 35, 5 40, 9 00
5 JERSEY GIRL 10 10, 12 25, 2 40, 4 55, 7.10, 9.40	6 TROY 12.10, 3 15, 6 20, 9 30	7 MY WIFE IS A GANGSTER 11 35, 1 45, 3 55, 6 05, 8 10, 10 00

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1 CONFESSIONS OF A TEENAGE DRAMA QUEEN 11:00, 1 00, 3 00, 5 00, 7.00, 9 00	2 TROY 10 40, 2 05, 5 30, 9 00	
3 TROY 10 40, 2 05, 5 30, 9 00	4 MY WIFE IS A GANGSTER 10 50, 12 50, 2 50, 4 50, 6 50, 8 50, 10 30	5 JERSEY GIRL 10 50, 12 50, 2 50, 4 50, 6 50, 8.00
6 VAN HELSING 10 10, 1 00, 4 10, 7 30, 10 30	7 TROY 1.20, 4.45, 8.10	8 I WILL SURVIVE 12.30, 3 00, 5 30, 8 00, 10 30

Big R Supercenter NOVALICHES / FAIRVIEW 935-3229 / 31

1 TROY 10 50, 2.10, 5.30, 8 45	2 CONFESSIONS OF A TEENAGE DRAMA QUEEN 10:25, 12:20, 2.15, 4:10, 6.05, 8.10	
3 MAN ON FIRE 12 05, 2 40, 5 15, 8 10	4 VAN HELSING 12 00, 2 45, 5 30, 8 20	5 JERSEY GIRL 11 20, 1 35, 3 50, 6 05, 8 30
6 TROY 12.30, 3.50, 7.10	7 I WILL SURVIVE 11 45, 1 55, 4 05, 6 15, 8.30	8 STARSKY AND HUTCH 11 30, 1 45, 4 00, 6 15, 8 30

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2 TROY	2 I WILL SURVIVE	2 TWISTED
3 VAN HELSING	3 JERSEY GIRL	3 I WILL SURVIVE
4 I WILL SURVIVE	4 VAN HELSING	4 HAUNTED SPIRITS
		5 CONFESSIONS OF A TEENAGE DRAMA QUEEN

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1 TROY	1 SCHOOL OF ROCK	1 JERSEY GIRL
2 SCHOOL OF ROCK	2 I WILL SURVIVE	2 I WILL SURVIVE
3 ANIMAL	3 TROY	3 ANIMAL
4 BONE SNATCHERS	4 TROY	4 VAN HELSING
5 SPARTAN	5 JERSEY GIRL	5 TROY
		6 THX TROY

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4 JERSEY GIRL	4 SCHOOL OF ROCK	4 I WILL SURVIVE
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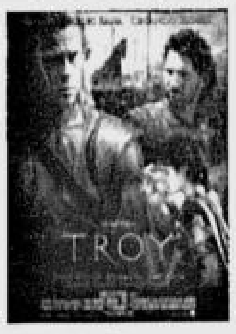

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THX 1 TROY	1 TROY	1 JERSEY GIRL	5 MAN ON FIRE	GUARANTEED SEATS THX 1 TROY 1:30, 4:45, 8:00, 11:15	1 TROY
2 TROY	2 TROY	2 TROY	6 TROY	GUARANTEED SEATS THX 2 TROY 12:45, 4:00, 7:15, 10:30	2 TROY
3 TROY	3 VAN HELSING	GUARANTEED SEATS THX 3 TROY 12:45, 4:00, 7:15, 10:30	7 VAN HELSING	GUARANTEED SEATS 3 JERSEY GIRL 1:05, 3:10, 5:15, 7:20, 9:25, 11:30	3 JERSEY GIRL
4 JERSEY GIRL	4 I WILL SURVIVE	4 MY WIFE IS A GANGSTER		GUARANTEED SEATS 4 VAN HELSING 2:15, 5:00 / TROY 8:45, 12:00	4 VAN HELSING
5 VAN HELSING				GUARANTEED SEATS 5 TROY 3:10, 6:25, 9:40	5 HELLBOY

GB1 GREENBELT 1	
1	VAN HELSING 1:30, 4:45, 8:00, 11:15
2	TROY 12:45, 4:00, 7:15, 10:30

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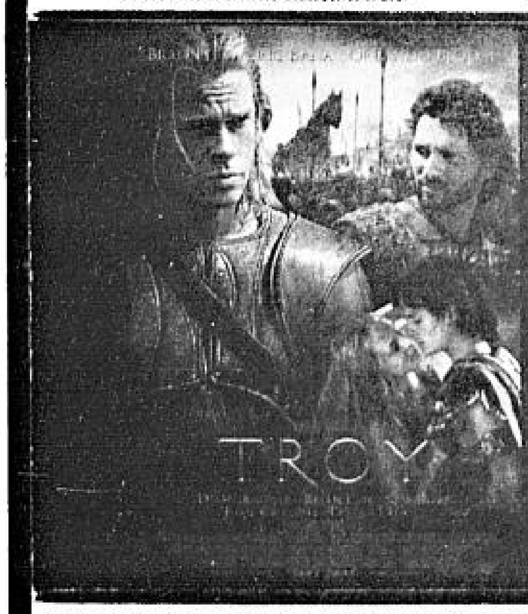

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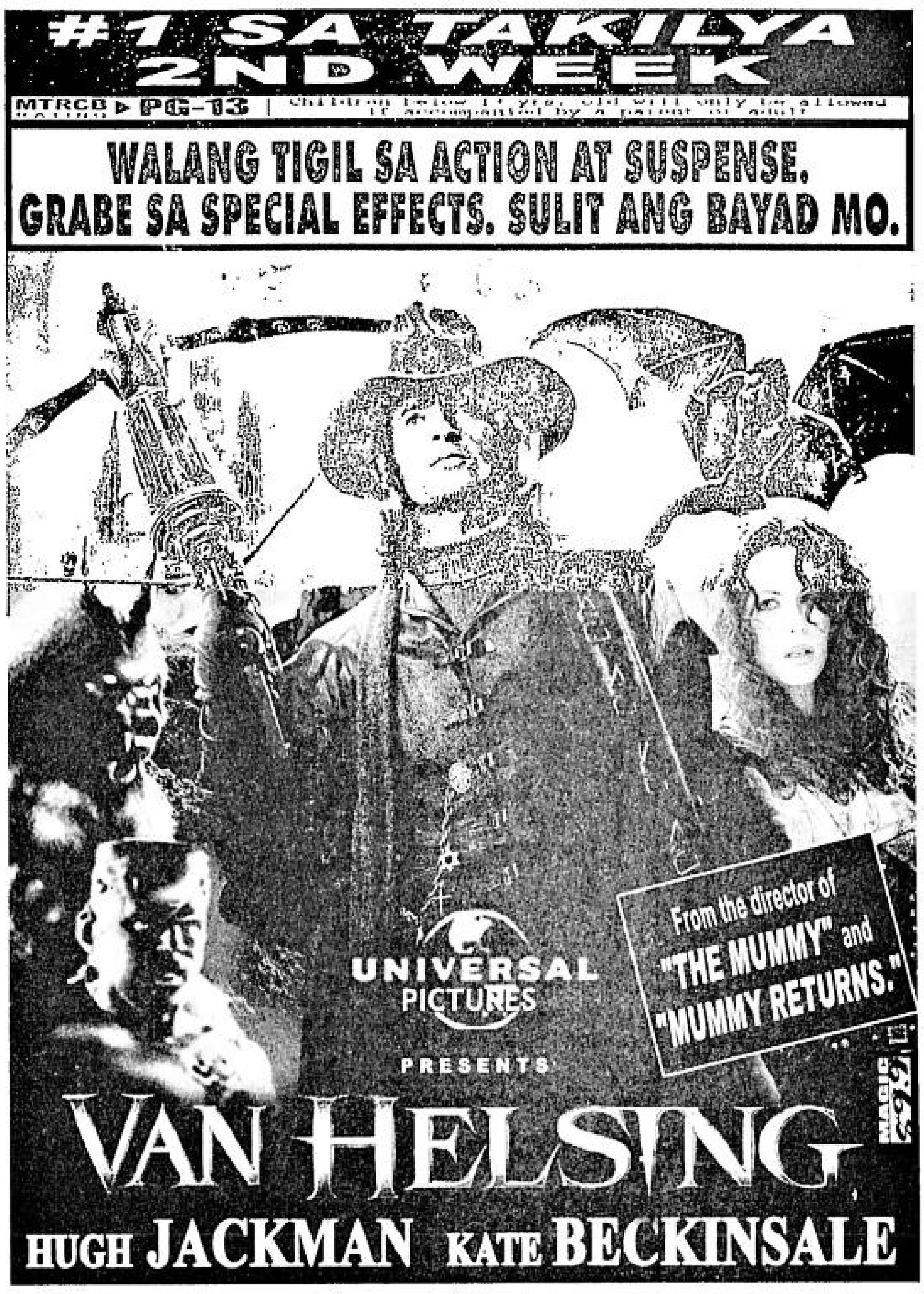
#1 SA TAKILYA
2ND WEEK
MTRCB RATING PG-13 | Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult
WALANG TIGIL SA ACTION AT SUSPENSE.
GRABE SA SPECIAL EFFECTS. SULIT ANG BAYAD MO.
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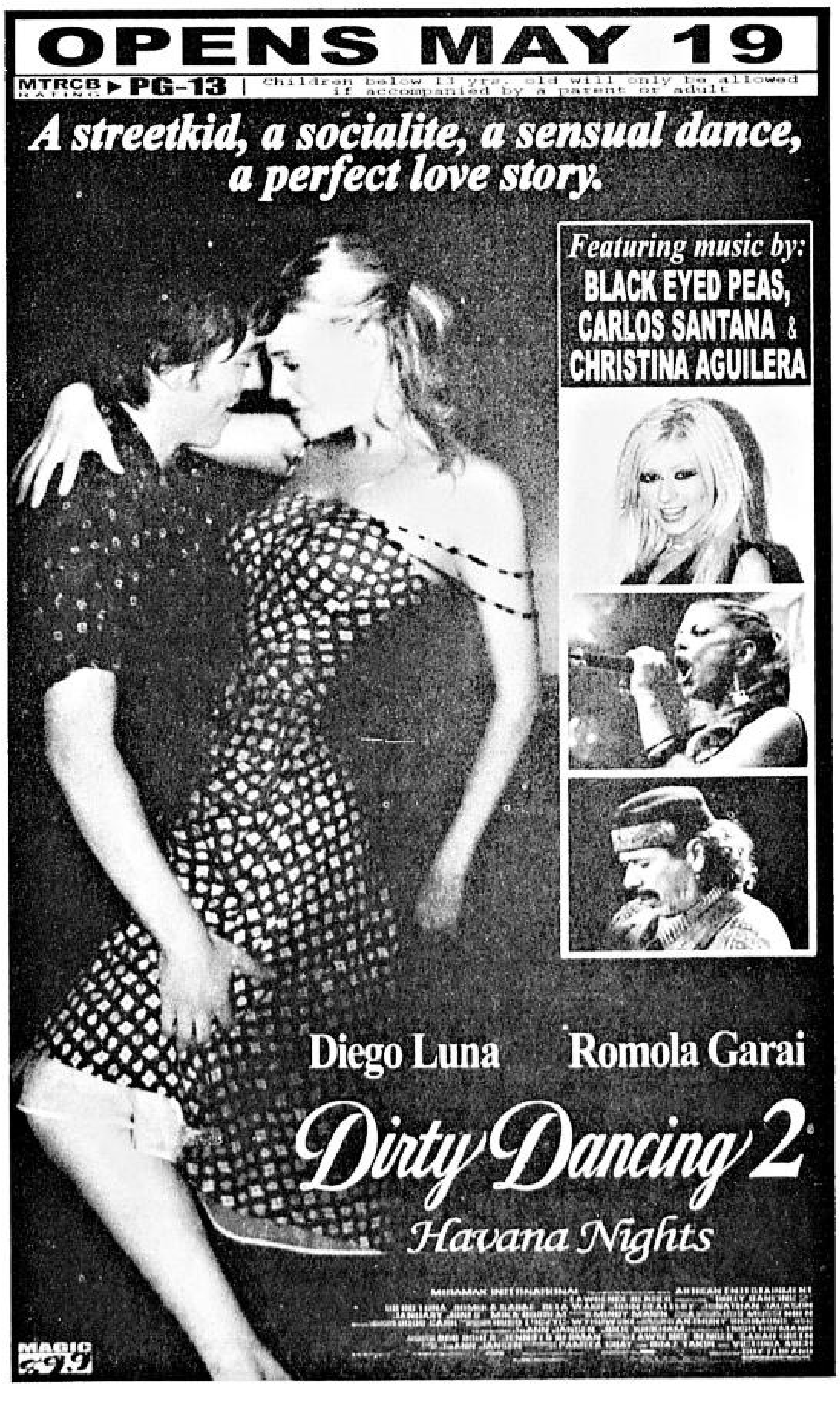
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CHRISTINA AGUILERA
Diego Luna
Romola Garai
Dirty Dancing 2
Havana Nights
MAGIC 89.9

Radically contrasting realities in show biz

From page A29

producing filmic entertainment that TV can't provide—big blockbusters that need a wide movie screen to be properly appreciated.

But that solution requires a much bigger production and publicity budget, which the currently cash-strapped movie industry can't provide.

Others say that the government has to provide better incentives for our film producers. Aside from the substantial tax rebates given by the Cinema Evaluation Board, producers could be further encouraged with a more extensive tax moratorium that would cover not just amusement taxes but all of the many other taxes that the industry is subjected to.

Other remedial gambits are being talked about, and we wish that all of them are implemented soon, because local movies are really having a very hard time just sustaining their "survival" mode.

While waiting for those measures to kick in, concerned moviegoers should go out of their way to patronize local movies. If Filipino films make more money, producers will be encouraged to bankroll more productions, more jobs will be made available to movie people, and we will be better off all around.

'TV Patrol' Sunday edition

THE SUNDAY edition of "TV Patrol" started airing at 6 p.m. on May 9. It is the latest addition to the weekender news programs of ABS-CBN's News and Current Affairs Group ("TV Patrol Sabado" and "The Weekend News"). Anchors are **Ces Drilon** and **Henry Omaga Diaz**.

Feedback

FROM **Bebeng Sevilla Soriano**, one of our finest stage actresses: "Your comments on **Mel Gibson**—all true, all true!"

Orlando Bloom in 'Troy'

AFTER receiving widespread acclaim for his performances in the "Lord of the Rings" trilogy and "Pirates of the Caribbean," **Orlando Bloom** plays the recklessly charming Prince Paris in the epic adventure, "Troy," which also stars **Brad Pitt** and **Eric Bana**.

Bloom was attracted to the character of Prince Paris because, "for me, he's the antihero. He's King Priam's second son but has lived a very sheltered life, so he hasn't grasped the responsibilities of becoming a warrior or king. So, he creates a war because of his love and lust for Helen of Troy."

ENTERTAINMENT

E-mail: pr_entertainment@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Louie C. Camino

Camille still hurting over broken friendship

By Marinel R. Cruz

TEEN stars Camille Prats and Angelica Panganiban had been the best of friends since they were kids. Now, they're merely civil to each other, their friendship shattered by a rumor about Angelica's boyfriend courting Camille.

"Right now, Angel and I are okay," Camille said of her relationship with Angelica. "We're civil to each other, but of course, *hindi mo maibabalik agad ang* friendship."

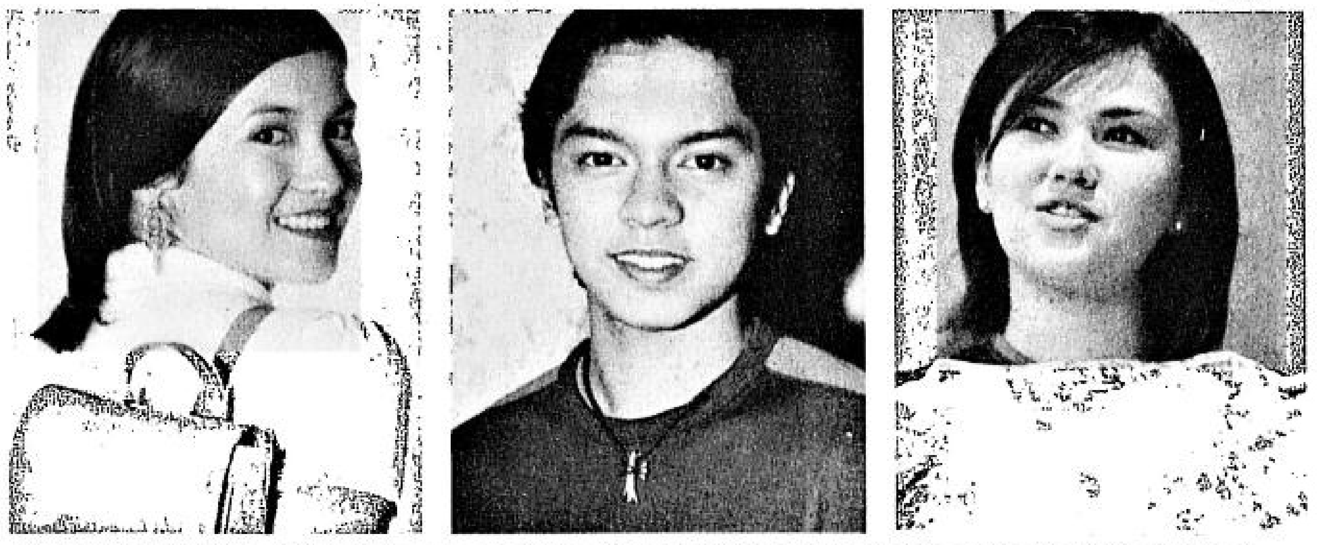
According to the rumor, teen actor Carlo Aquino was courting Camille even when he and Angelica were still on, and Camille was said to have even encouraged Carlo. This eventually led to the breakup of Angelica and Carlo in July 2003.

Angelica and Camille did not talk to each other for some time, but they have since patched things up.

Said Camille, "I just can't believe that of all the girls (close to Carlo and Angelica), *bakit ako pa?*"

She said Angelica never confronted her about the rumor before Angelica started talking about it in public.

"I heard that they broke up but I thought it was because of someone else," Camille, 18, told INQUIRER Entertainment on Wednesday. "I only found out when Angel (Angelica's nickname) talked about it in 'Morning Girls.' After that, *tuloy-tuloy na ang tsismis.*"



"SO NOT TRUE." "Carlo (middle) never courted me," says Camille Prats (left) of the ex-boyfriend of her ex-best friend Angelica Panganiban.

The young star said she was sad that Angelica preferred to believe the rumor rather than talk to her about it. "*Hindi na dapat pinapatulan ang ganyang bagay,*" she stressed. "*Nanghihinayang talaga ako sa* friendship *namin.* I did not expect *na kung kailan tumagal na ang* friendship *namin, saka siya maaapektuhan.*"

Camille said she and Angelica last talked to each other last January. Both are studying at the Thames International Business School in Libis, Quezon City.

"But we don't see each other there because we're not taking the same course," explained Camille, a second year marketing student.

"We're trying to work things out," she added. "In fact, we send text messages to each other once in a while."

Camille is now going steady with commercial model Francis Ricafort, Alma Moreno's nephew and LJ Moreno's elder brother.

"Carlo never courted me," Camille insisted. "It's not true. I don't know where people got that information."

She said the rumor came when she and Angelica were both busy with work and school and hardly had time to see each other.

"I felt *ang daming naiinggit sa* friendship *namin,*" she said. "We've been close since I was 9 years old."

Camille claimed, "I have an idea of who spread that rumor, but I never confronted them. *Konsensya na nila yun.* If I confront them, *lalo lang lalaki ang* issue. It's always easy for people to turn things around. *Baka ako pa ang mapapasama.* I don't want that to happen."

She said she has always been very open about her relationship with Francis. "That's why I was really wondering why people believed that rumor," she said.

"Plus, Francis is friends with Carlo. If it really happened, I'm sorry, but Francis could have kicked Carlo's ass for it."

Camille, however, would not talk about the reported word war between her brother, John Prats, and Angelica.

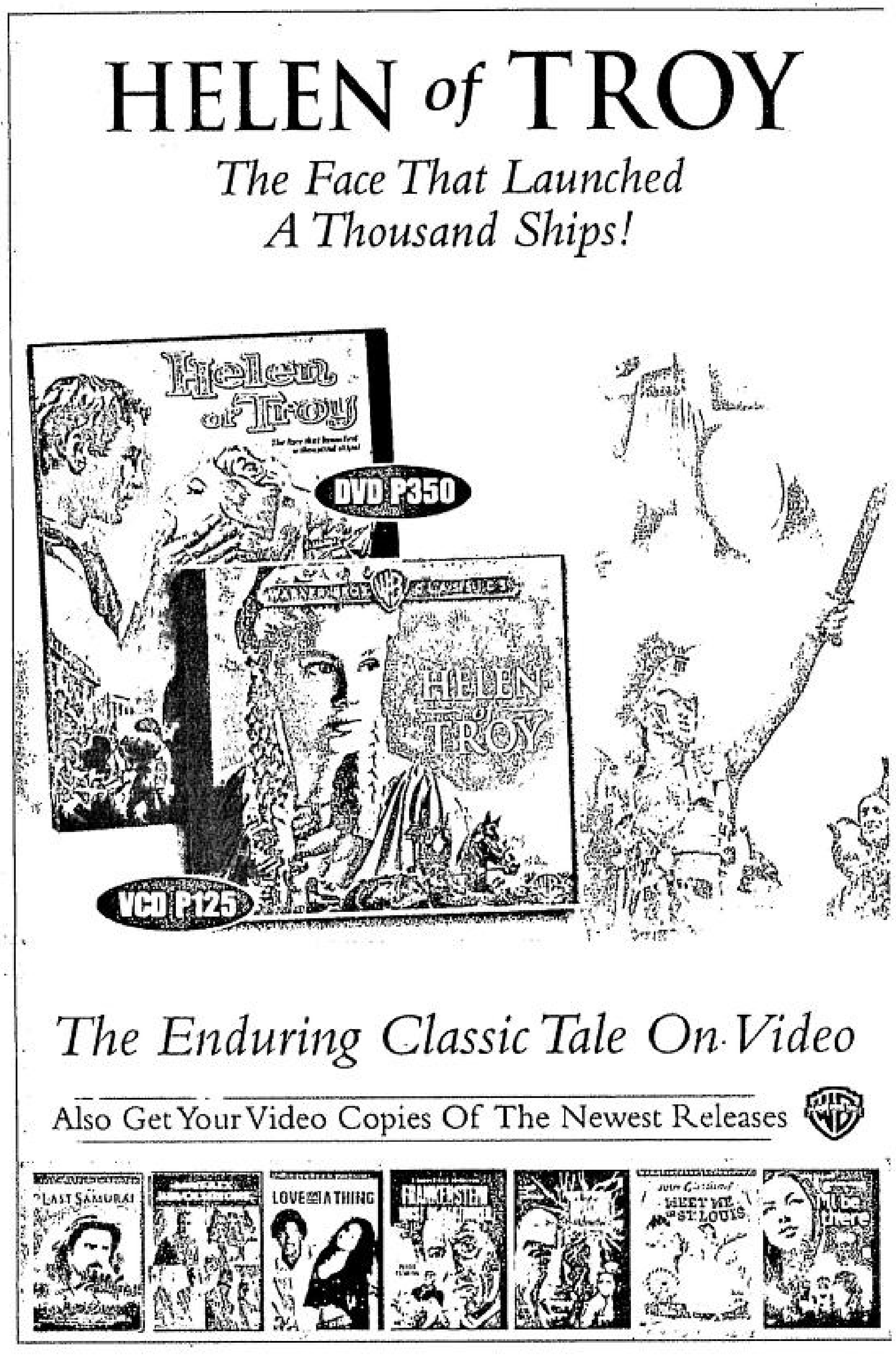
John, who is known to be very protective of his younger sister, reportedly sent text messages to Angelica, which hurt the latter.

"It's true that there was a misunderstanding between my brother and Angel," Camille said, "but it was not about Carlo."

She said the conflict concerned another person, "who chose to keep quiet about the issue. *Natakot na siguro.* I think the matter has been settled."

Camille, who is turning 19 on June 20, said her parents and grandparents approve of Francis, "because they've known him for quiet some time now."

More Entertainment stories in Section C



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Cinema 4: 11:30, 2:35, 5:40, 9:00LMF
Cinema 6: 12:10, 3:15, 6:20, 9:30LMF
METRO EAST:
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Cinema 3 10:40, 2:05, 5:30, 9:00LMF
Cinema 7: 1:20, 4:45, 8:10
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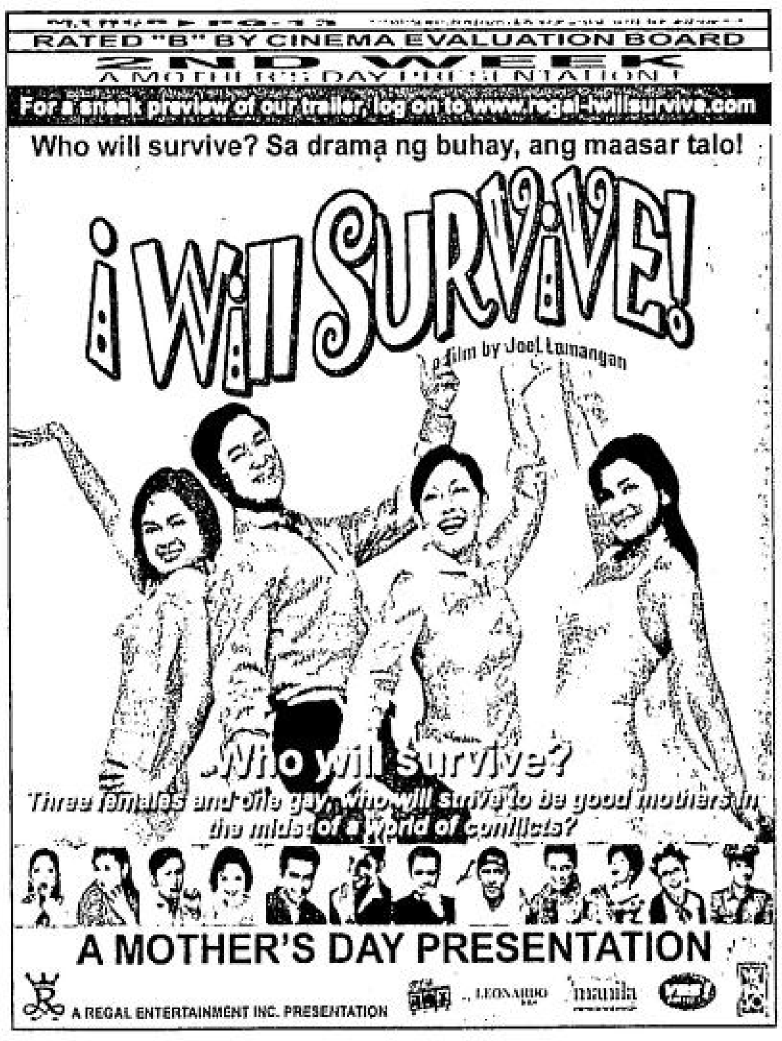

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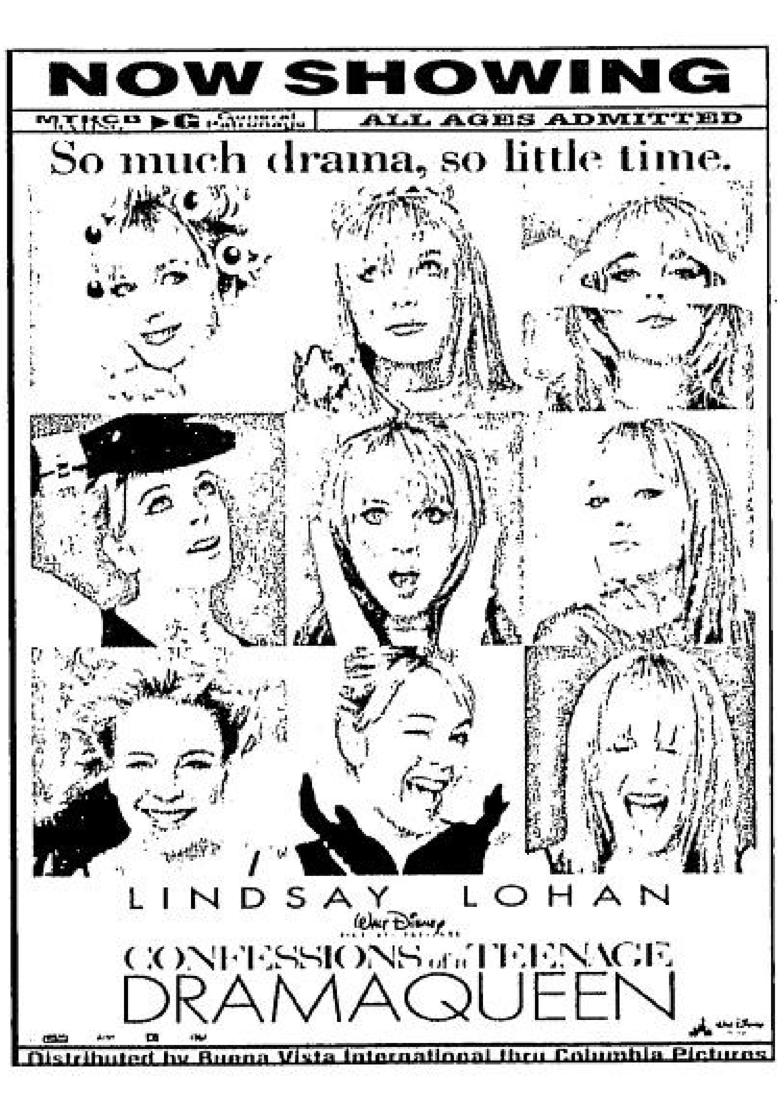

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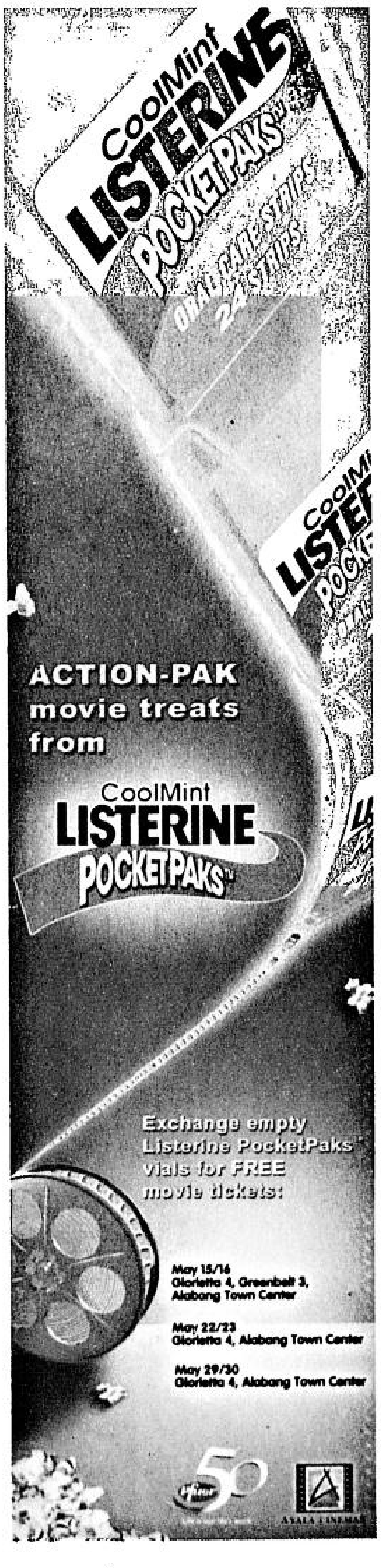

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Gas, diesel prices to rise this week

By Abigail L. Ho

PUMP prices of gasoline and diesel are expected to go up by P1 to P1.25 a liter in the next few days, or by Monday at the latest, as oil companies reel from the continued escalation of crude prices in the world market.

Independent Philippine Petroleum Companies Association (IPPCA) chair Fernando Martinez said in a briefing yesterday that local oil firms, particularly those who did not have refineries here and were importing finished products, could no longer shoulder the high costs of oil and the volatility of the peso.

"We can't go past next week without implementing an increase. I don't think we can prolong the agony," he said.

Prices of gasoline and diesel based on the Mean of Platts Singapore (MOPS) benchmark for finished products soared to weekly averages of $49.26 and $45.12 a barrel, respectively, during the first week of May.

MOPS-based unleaded gasoline registered an all-time high of $50.65 a barrel on May 6.

In April, unleaded gasoline averaged $44.01 a barrel, while diesel averaged $42.82 a barrel.

Taking these prices into consideration, IPPCA computations showed that new oil players--all petroleum product importers--have under-recoveries of P2.69 a liter for gasoline and P2.74 a liter for diesel.

As these under-recoveries had to be recovered somehow by local oil firms, Martinez said the P1 to P1.25 price increase would have to be implemented as soon as possible, although this was not even enough to cover half of what they had lost over the past eight months.

"(The high prices in the world market) have to be reflected in local pump prices. The industry can't hold out any longer," he said. "I don't think we can sustain the high prices. It's really hurting us already."

Martinez said it was also likely that another oil price increase, after the expected P1 to p1.25 increase within this week, would come before month's end.

The balance of their under-recoveries, between P1.44 and P1,69 a liter for gasoline and between P1.49 and P1.74 a liter for diesel, could either be passed on through an actual price increase or by not implementing a rollback even if world prices ease in June, he said.

Caltex Philippines Inc. agreed that an oil price increase was in the offing, but officials did not cite a range or a timeframe for it. "We're closely monitoring the market," a company official said.

GAS/ B2

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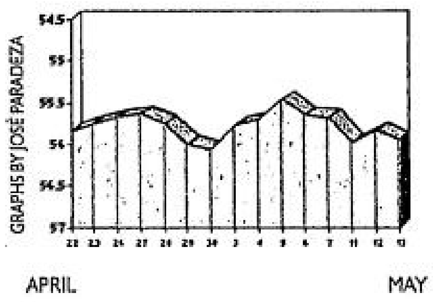

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As of 5 p.m., May 13, 2004

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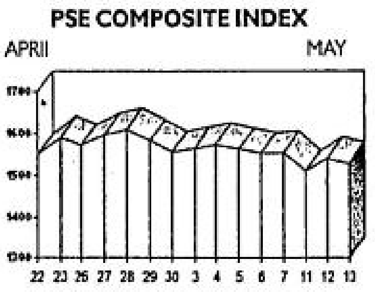
per ounce Hong Kong, May 12, 2004

Stocks end down as investors await poll results



(See stock market report on Page B2)

SHARES lost almost one percent yesterday and traders said the market could continue fluctuating until clearer election results show whether President Macapagal-Arroyo won a fresh 6-year term.

It would take weeks before the winner of the May 10 national elections is declared officially.

Exit polls showed Ms Macapagal was ahead by about eight percentage points but early counts by an independent election watchdog that has access to the ballots put her main challenger, film star Fernando Poe Jr., in the lead by a slim margin.

"There is no trend. The market is looking for direction," said Spencer Yap, analyst at BPI Securities Inc. "The market is perhaps waiting for a more definitive result from the election."

The main stock index fell 0.94 percent or 14.49 points to close at 1,526.47 points. Losers beat gainers four to one. The index has seesawed by about one to two percent since Monday and analysts said more volatility was likely.

Reuters

Sy pays ₱2.55B for Yuchengco's Chinabank stake

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE SM group of retail tycoon Henry Sy yesterday closed its buyout of the Yuchengco group's 12.68-percent stake in China Banking Corp. for P2.55 billion, securing in the process majority control of the profitable bank.

Industry sources said the shares changed hands through several block and cross sales at the Philippine Stock Exchange. A source from the SM group confirmed to the INQUIRER that 3.86 million Chinabank shares were transferred through the stock market at P660 each.

The transaction raised the SM group's stake in the bank to 54 percent.

Prior to its buyout of the Yuchengcos' minority stake in Chinabank, the SM group, which also controls Banco de Oro Universal Bank, was already the single biggest stockholder in the bank.

The SM group has ruled out a merger between BDO and Chinabank, at least not within the next two years. The Dee family, which founded Chinabank in 1920, will continue to manage the bank even when it has been left with less than a 10-percent stake in the bank.

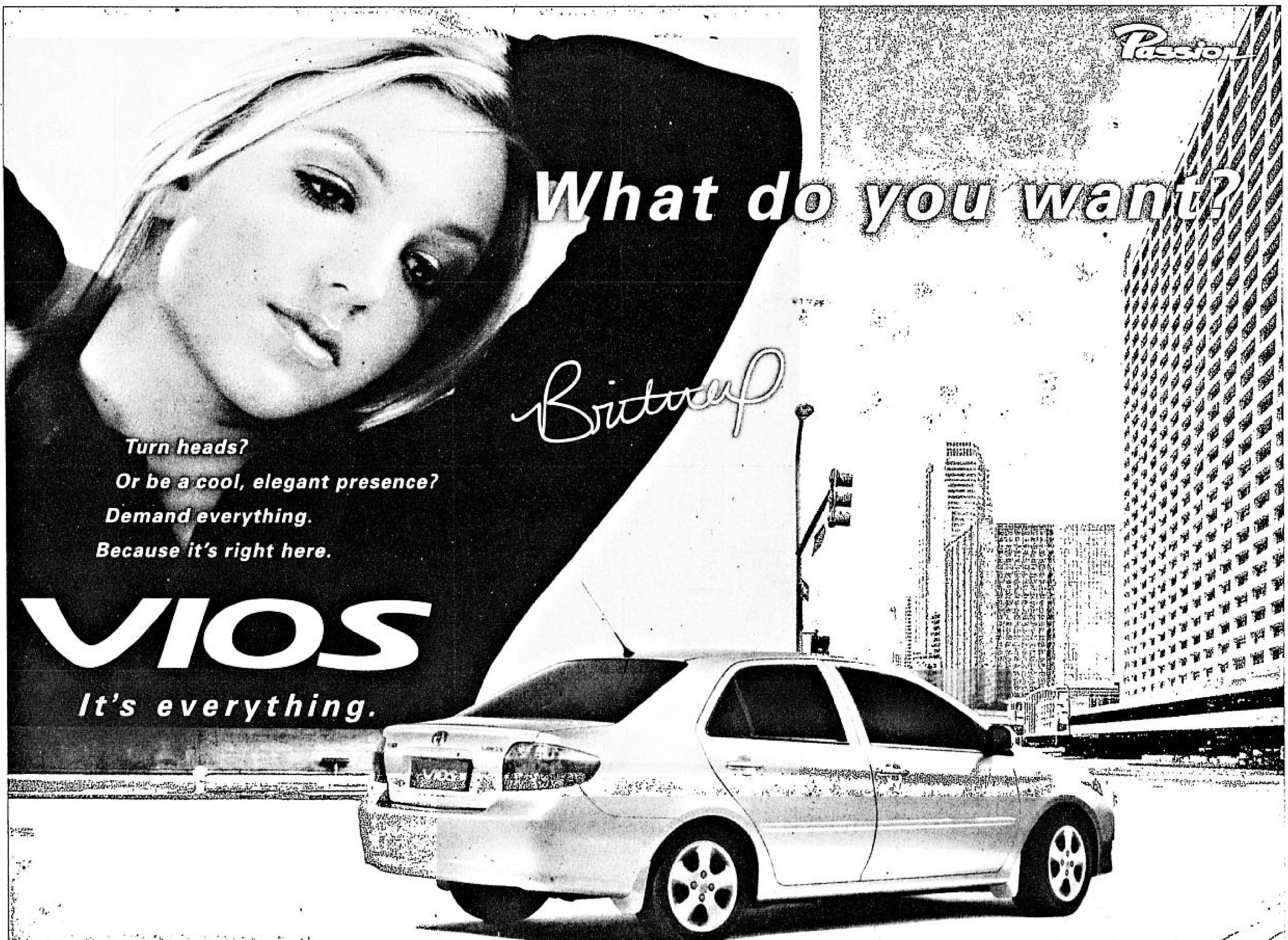
But a merger between BDO and Chinabank some time in the future will catapult their combined ranking in the local banking industry to the fifth biggest in terms of assets.

Chinabank is the 12th biggest bank in the country with P106.6 billion in assets as of the first quarter of this year. BDO, on the other hand, is ranked 8th, with total assets of P151.5 billion.

On top of the Chinabank acquisition, the SM group is still working on its purchase of a controlling stake in the country's third biggest lender Equitable PCI Bank. The deal to buy the 29-percent stake held by the Social Security System in Equitable PCI is still awaiting clearance from the Department of Justice.

But if a three-way merger between Chinabank, Equitable PCI and BDO would happen in the future, the SM group will own the biggest banking conglomerate in the country. The consolidated assets of these three banks are worth about P536.5 billion.

The biggest bank in the country is Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co. of taipan George Ty with assets worth P472.7 billion, followed by the Ayalas' Bank of the Philippine Islands with resources totalling P346.9 billion.



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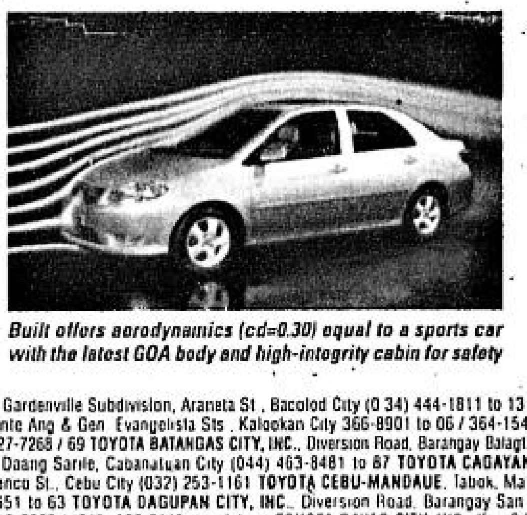

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CHANGING FORTUNE

Piltel posts net gains in Q1 income

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Shop @ the fort BAZAAR 2004
Brewing Point

By Clarissa S. Batino

PILIPINO Telephone Corp. returned to profit in the first quarter with P8 million in net income, even after the telecommunication carrier booked P435 million in foreign exchange losses on roughly $400 million in loans due to a weakened peso in the first three months this year.

"We will continue to operate our business with the goal of posting a positive bottomline by the end of 2004, subject to fluctuations in foreign exchange rates," said Gregorio Atienza, Piltel president and chief executive officer.

Piltel is largely owned by Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. It had lost billions in pesos since 1997 when the Asian crisis aggravated its dollar debt and worsened problems in operations.

The company failed to maximize its existing wireless technology, which did not offer text messaging, forcing it to shift to the same GSM system of its competitors.

Last year, the company's net loss shrunk to P3.35 billion from P21.83 billion in 2002. Piltel even managed to earn P540 million from operations last year.

Operating income in the first quarter this year reached P570 million, a turnaround from an operating loss of P59 million a year ago. Net loss in the first quarter of 2003 stood at P360 million.

Piltel has forecast a P402 million net income this year on revenues of P5.79 billion. Profits are projected to increase to P739 million next year and to P1.08 billion in 2006 on the back of sustained increase in revenues from a steadily increasing subscriber base.

The company's net operating revenues in the first quarter rose by 58 percent to P1.41 billion from P890 million a year ago after it signed up over 303,000 new mobile phone subscribers from January to March. Almost 90 percent of the company's revenues come from the cellular phone business.

Subscribers to its wireless service Talk 'N Text reached 3.17 million as of the first quarter, up 60 percent from a year ago. Piltel had 47,281 landline subscribers as of end-March, lower from 48,186 as of end-2003.

Coupled with increased revenues, Piltel shrank its operating costs in the first quarter by 11 percent to P839 million from P948 million a year ago.

Ongoing moves to restructure Piltel's P20.5 billion outstanding debt would further improve finances.

Piltel's revenues are seen to hit P7.24 billion next year and P8.13 billion in 2006.

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SM Prime's Q1 net rises 8 %

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

MALL developer SM Prime Holdings, Inc. reported that its net profit rose eight percent to P1.2 billion from P1.1 billion during the same period last year.

In its disclosure, SM Prime's total revenues grew 14 percent to P2.3 billion from P2 billion in the first quarter last year.

Driven by rentals from three more SM supermalls, which opened during the last quarter of 2003, rental revenues also grew 16 percent to P1.8 billion from last year's P1.5 billion.

The new malls—SM City Lucena, SM City Baguio and SM City Marilao—all hold an occupancy rate of 90 percent.

Revenues from amusement centers increased 41 percent at P47 million from P33 million during the same period.

Income from operations also climbed 13 percent to P1.4 billion from P1.2 billion.

SM Prime on May 21 will open SM City Dasmariñas along Aguinaldo Highway in Dasmariñas, Cavite. Also set to open within the year is the 71,000-square meter SM City Batangas in Batangas City.

SM Prime of Henry Sy aims to increase its total floor area to 2.5 million square meters and its network to 19 malls by year's end. The firm has set aside P5 billion for capital spending in 2005.

ABS-CBN profits up 15% to ₱124M

TELEVISION giant ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp. yesterday reported its net profit grew 15 percent in the first quarter to P124 million, with net airtime revenues up slightly by seven percent.

Randolph Estrellado, ABS-CBN chief finance officer, said during a briefing yesterday that other expenses were down nine percent to P122 million as the network cut its interest expenses by 12 percent during the quarter.

The decline was due to lower loan balances as the company reduced its outstanding loans to P4.88 billion by end March from P6.285 billion during the same period last year.

He also said the company paid over P1 billion in principal interest in the first quarter.

Operating income also grew four percent to 329 million on the back of a slower growth in net revenues at 16 percent against operating expenses growth of 17 percent.

Airtime and other broadcasting related revenues climbed seven percent to P2.41 billion.

Gross airtime revenues accounted for the bulk.

ABS-CBN Global contributed P705 million, an increase of 29 percent from the previous year. *Elizabeth L. Sanchez*

NOTICE TO SHAREHOLDERS OF SPI TECHNOLOGIES, INC.

All shareholders of SPI Technologies, Inc. ("SPI") are hereby notified that on May 13, 2004, the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC") approved **THLPV ACQUISITION, L.P.**'s ("the Bidder") request for another extension of the period for the Tender Offer of SPI Shares ("Shares"). Please note the following modifications:

	Original	Extension
Tender Offer Period	9:00 a.m. of April 12, 2004 to 3:00 p.m. of May 7, 2004	9:00 a.m. of April 12, 2004 to 3:00 p.m. of May 21, 2004
Cross Date	May 20, 2004	June 2, 2004
Payment Date	After 3:00 p.m. on May 20, 2004	After 3:00 p.m. onJune 2, 2004

Pursuant to SRC Rule 19 (Tender Offer), which imposes only one closing and completion of a tender offer, please note that even those who have tendered their SPI Shares during the original and first extension of the Tender Offer Period shall be paid after 3:00 p.m. on June 2, 2004.

As of May 12, 2004, Shares committed to be sold and tendered to ATR-Kim Eng Securities, Inc. (the "Depository") total 272,387,325 Shares, or approximately 87% of SPI's issued and outstanding Shares.

All other Terms of the Tender Offer shall remain the same.

For further inquiries, please contact **Platon Martinez Flores San Pedro & Leaño** at (63-2) 867-4696 or **Ms. Nilaida Enriquez** of the Depository at (63-2) 849-8888.

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of May 13, 2004)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	17	17	16.75	16.75	35,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	41.5	41.5	40.5	41	852,600
China Banking Corp.	680	680	660	660	3,194,690
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	40	40.5	40	40.5	107,100
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	24.25	24.5	24	24.25	296,100
Philippine National Bank	23.5	23.5	23.5	23.5	5,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	23.75	23.75	23.75	23.75	8,000
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Manulife Financial Corp.	1980	1980	1970	1970	570
Sun Life Financial Inc.	1430	1430	1430	1430	1,920
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	22.25	22.25	21	21.25	81,900
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.68	0.69	0.68	0.69	540,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	840	840	825	830	22,310
Ipeople Inc.	1.44	1.44	1.42	1.44	170,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.038	0.038	0.038	0.038	100,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.037	0.037	0.037	0.037	200,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	1.68	1.68	1.6	1.64	5,802,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1060	1065	1050	1050	200,570
Ivantage Corp.	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	10,000
Philweb Corp.	0.012	0.012	0.011	0.012	14,000,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	19.75	19.75	19.5	19.5	21,000
Manila Electric Co. B	32	32	30.5	30.5	1,183,100
Petron Corp.	3.3	3.3	3.05	3.1	6,132,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.97	1	0.96	1	60,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	3.05	3.05	3	3	5,021,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.25	0.28	1,610,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Union Cement Corp.	1.52	1.52	1.52	1.52	666,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3	3	3	3	10,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	20.25	20.25	20	20.25	567,400
San Miguel Corp. A	59	59	58.5	59	323,600
San Miguel Corp. B	72	72	72	72	42,300
Vitarich Corp.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	350,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	5.5	5.6	5.4	5.6	2,913,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.005	0.005	0.005	0.005	12,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.5	1.52	1.5	1.52	25,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.58	0.58	0.57	0.57	9,250,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	900,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.135	0.135	0.13	0.13	350,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.24	0.25	0.24	0.25	1,000,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.022	0.022	0.021	0.021	11,500,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	28.5	28.5	28	28	980,800
Ionics Inc.	1.22	1.22	1.2	1.2	53,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.74	1.74	1.72	1.72	48,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.1	1.1	1.08	1.1	1,924,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.26	0.26	0.25	0.25	1,660,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	100,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	20,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.24	0.245	0.24	0.24	21,610,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	5,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	10,000
Manila Jockey Club	7	7	7	7	5,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	22.5	22.5	20.75	21	399,300
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Q	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	300
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	5,700
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	300
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	6	6	6	6	3,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5.6	5.6	5.5	5.6	4,055,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.11	0.115	0.11	0.115	870,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.225	0.225	0.225	0.225	6,220,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.04	1.04	1.02	1.02	1,747,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	270,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	1,400,000
SM Development Corp.	1.08	1.08	1.08	1.08	128,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.1	6.1	6	6	1,716,000
MINING					
Benguet Corp. B	1.72	1.72	1.72	1.72	2,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	800,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.005	0.005	0.005	0.005	2,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.003	0.003	0.003	0.003	1,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	30,000
OIL					
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	5,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.003	0.003	0.003	0.003	13,000,000

Gas, diesel . . .

From page B1

Oil refiners Petron Corp. and Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp. are also affected by skyrocketing world prices, with the benchmark Dubai crude hitting a 13-year high of $34.57 a barrel on May 12.

World oil prices have been heavily affected by the crisis in Iraq, strong demand from rebounding economies like China and perceived low reserves in the United States.

"As it is, soaring oil prices are already causing global alarm. I am concerned about its effect on domestic fuel prices," Energy Secretary Vincent Perez said in a statement yesterday.

DISCLOSURES

APC Group Inc. moved its annual stockholders' meeting to Sept. 9. Also, the company approved the appointments of Jerry Tiu and Jose Gabionza as directors.

***

STENIEL Manufacturing Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on June 21, 2 p.m. at the Board Room of Steniel Cavite Packaging Corp., Gen. Trias, Cavite. Stockholders of record as of May 21 will be entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting.

***

PHILCOMSAT Holdings Corp. moved its annual stockholders' meeting to June 25 with record date on May 25.

***

PHILEX Mining Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on June 29, 2 p.m. at the Manansala AB+ Hallway, 4/F of Holiday Inn Manila Galleria, Pasig City. Only stockholders of record as of March 12 are entitled to vote.

***

INTERPHIL Laboratories Inc. bought 50,000 of its own "B" shares at P1.90 each.

***

IONICS Inc. will increase the number of its directors from 10 to 11 to allow the election of an independent director.

***

PHILIPPINE Stock Exchange disclosed the resignation of Reynaldo Reyes as assistant treasurer effective immediately.

***

VITARICH Corp. set May 26 as record date for stockholders who are entitled to notice of and to vote at its June 25 annual meeting.

***

MIC Holdings Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on June 21, 2 p.m. at the 8/F of DPC Place, Chino Roces Ave., Makati City. ***Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research***

CURRENCIES

May 13, 2004 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.840054	1.000000	55.8630
Japan	Yen	0.007440	0.008857	0.4948
United Kingdom	Pound	1.489499	1.773100	99.0507
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.107720	0.128230	7.1633
Switzerland	Franc	0.649342	0.772977	43.1808
Canada	Dollar	0.605794	0.721137	40.2849
Singapore	Dollar	0.488318	0.581294	32.4728
Australia	Dollar	0.584507	0.695797	38.8693
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.228378	2.652661	148.1856
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.224009	0.266660	14.8964
Brunei	Dollar	0.486903	0.579609	32.3787
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000094	0.000112	0.0063
Thailand	Baht	0.020737	0.024685	1.3790
UAE	Dirham	0.228716	0.272264	15.2095
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.190400	66.4993
Argentina	Peso	0.287936	0.342759	19.1475
Brazil	Real	0.268989	0.320205	17.8876
Denmark	Kroner	0.134400	0.159990	8.9375
India	Rupee	0.018544	0.022075	1.2332
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.221096	0.263193	14.7028
Mexico	New Peso	0.072450	0.086244	4.8178
New Zealand	Dollar	0.513104	0.610799	34.1211
Norway	Kroner	0.122117	0.145368	8.1207
Pakistan	Rupee	0.014617	0.017400	0.9720
South Africa	Rand	0.123128	0.146572	8.1880
Korea	Won	0.000712	0.000847	0.0473
Sweden	Kroner	0.109258	0.130061	7.2656
Syria	Pound	0.016217	0.019305	1.0784
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.025204	0.030003	1.6761
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000439	0.000522	0.0292

Taipannic dream

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

THE SIX taipans might get together again to spearhead a motherhood project and help revive investor confidence in the new administration, just like what they did during the early go-go days of President Ramos.

According to the grapevine, former Bangko Sentral Governor Gabriel Singson, the FVR pointman who rounded up the six taipans, and GMA economic adviser Tomas Alcantara have had preliminary discussion toward reviving Asia's Emerging Dragon Corp., as the corporate grouping of John Gokongwei, Andrew Gotianun, Henry Sy Sr., Lucio Tan, George Ty and Alfonso Yuchengco Jr. had been known.

AEDC initially proposed to build the Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal 3 but subsequently lost the contract to the now controversial Piatco consortium.

Malacañang is quite keen to finish the stalled project, whose Erap-amended contract had been declared illegal by the Supreme Court, but could not do so until after the international arbitration case with Piatco has been resolved.

Even assuming the AEDC is still interested in the terminal, the government has to expropriate Terminal 3 first and then the taipans will have to join and win the new bidding before they can take over and finish the build-operate-transfer project, said AEDC counsel F. Arthur Villaraza.

The taipans' winning back the Terminal 3 project could help overcome the vigorous lobby of PAL owner Lucio Tan, who objects to splitting the airline's domestic and international operations out of Terminal 2, should Philippine Airlines be forced to transfer its international flights to the purely international flights-only Terminal 3.

According to the industry grapevine, the construction of an underground passenger and cargo tunnel to link Terminal 2 and Terminal 3, which Piatco did not undertake on the strength of the illegally amended contract, should be sufficient to overcome Tan's objections.

Other high-impact, big-ticket and clean slate projects that the taipans could venture into would be the proposed international airport-seaport in Caticlan, the gateway to Boracay, and the extension and modernization of the Manila-Bicol railway line.

Or, better and simpler yet, the six zillionaires can simply pool their charity funds and set up a hospital for the poor, say, in UP Diliman, and link it up and make it a teaching hospital with the UP colleges of medicine and nursing.

Such plan would also mean double windfall for the national government, since, in addition to getting a new hospital, it can then move on to privatize the Philippine General Hospital and sell that valuable piece of land along Taft Avenue.

By George

GEORGE Go's tumultuous reign at Equitable PCIBank continues to hound him, despite his having already severed links with the family-controlled bank. The arbitration case filed by RCBC against EPCIB on the 1999 sale of Bankard to the Yuchengco bank also happens to implead Go.

Worse for the family, the Gos now have to fend off two taipans, Alfonso Yuchengco on the Bankard front and Henry Sy, on the takeover front.

Liway's impossibility

LIWAYWAY Vinzons-Chato, the commissioner of the FVR-era Bureau of Internal Revenue,

COCKTALES/ B5

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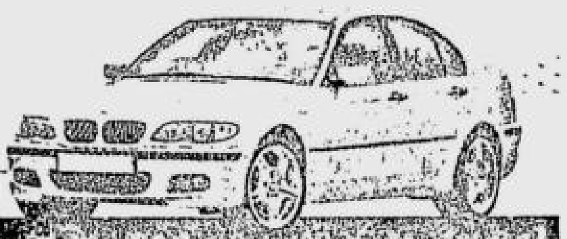

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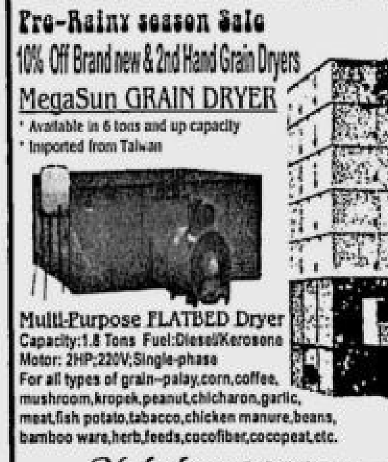

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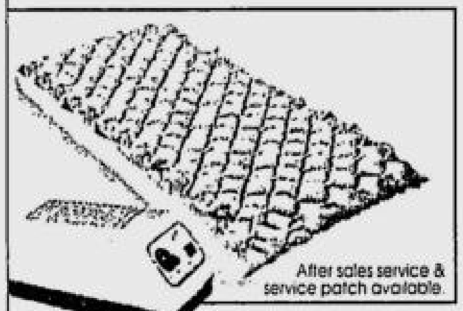

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300,000 - 499,999	5.50	5.75	5.75	6.00	7.00
500,000 - 999,999	6.00	6.25	6.50	6.50	8.00
1.0MM - 4,999,999	7.50	7.50	7.50	7.50	8.00
5 million and up	7.75	7.75	7.75	7.75	8.00

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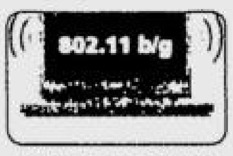

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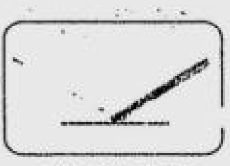

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BUSINESS Friday
Business Features Editor Margie Quimpo-Espino

Creating great brands by caring for people first

By Karen V. de Asis
Contributor

MUCH have been written about super brands like Coke or McDonalds but few are familiar with the success stories of new brands that have become market leaders in their segments despite tough times and competition. These include Whole Foods Market Inc., Container Store, Southwest Airlines, GSD&M and SAS Institute. Their success is based largely on a business strategy that perpetuates a mindset that when organizations take care of its people, their employees in turn do their utmost to take care of the company's customers.

Once a small store in Austin, Texas, Whole Foods Market® is now a $3.2-billion company that has become the world's largest retailer of natural and organic products. Whole Foods has 156 stores in North America and the UK. Since 1998, it has been in the list of Fortune's 100 Best Companies To Work For.

SAS institute, a world leader in business analytics software based in Carey, North Carolina, has been named six times as Fortune's 100 Best Companies To Work For In America. The same company has been acknowledged 13 times as one of 100 Best Companies For Working Mothers. Moreover, it was featured as a Best Place To Work For in the Oprah Winfrey show.

GSD&M advertising based in Austin, Texas, was named by Adweek as Southwest Advertising Agency Of The Year seven times and was recognized in 1999 as the Advertising Agency of the Year.

Dallas-based The Container Store is America's leading retailer of storage and organization products with company sales of $335 million in 2003. For five consecutive years, The Container Store has been named either as number one or number one in Fortune's Best Companies To Work For.

Southwest Airlines is 2004 America's Most Admired Company. It is the US' only major short-haul, low fare, high frequency, point-to-point carrier. In 2003, with sales of $6 billion, it remained profitable despite the crisis in the airline industry in the aftermath of the 9/11 tragedy.

People first

Aside from being cited several times as Fortune's 100 Best Companies To Work For, all have commonly grounded their success on a workplace culture that loves its people, believing that when organizations place put people first, company employees do a better job and put their customers first. This results in profits. John Mackey, founder and CEO of Whole Foods Market could not have put it more succinctly when he stated, "In a lot of ways the retail business could not be more simple. All you have to do is to make sure team members are happy. They make the customers happy and the customers make the shareholders prosperous."

Culture brand

Following are key insights that drive a business and marketing strategy based on branding culture.

Create an employee-first culture. Culture brands are grounded on an employee first culture where an organization anticipates and addresses employee needs and wants, not just customer needs. Jim Goodnight, co-founder and CEO of SAS Institute, believes that the more an organization helps employees focus better in their work, the greater are the results that they can achieve. Goodnight believes that people are the company's most valuable resource. Thus, Goodnight is determined to hire the best talents, get their creative juices flowing and retain them by building a company committed to life and work balance. When SAS was just a start-up, most employees were women of birthing age who eventually decided to stay home as the babies came. Aiming to get good talents back, Goodnight provided day care, which encouraged a lot of new moms to go back to work. Today, SAS has a lot of perks designed to help women balance their family and work. Among its generously subsidized benefits include access to two on-site child care centers; wellness programs at its 77,000 sq.ft. recreation and fitness facility along with free personal trainer services, yoga classes, dance studio, tennis courts, putting green, Olympic size swimming pool; free round the care medical treatment at the health care center; fully paid kid days where parents can stay home with a sick child or attend milestone events; flexible workday schedules; and other employee benefits for everyone like regularly delivered fresh fruits on Mondays and M&Ms on Wednesdays.

Asked about the seemingly extravagant perks and benefits, Goodnight remarks, "It's the way it must be. I want an environment where people enjoy working, where ideas pour out of their heads and into a computer screen."

Goodnight realizes the challenge of staying ahead of competition and sustaining innovation. He understands that creating software is an intellectual job that needs an environment that inspires creativity to better serve its customers.

Today, about 17,000 clients worldwide in every major industry use the SAS system. It is installed in 98 of the Fortune 100 companies, in more than 3,000 universities and nearly every major government agency in the United States.

Culture brands respect talent and expertise; and encourage employee success. Culture brands recognize expertise and great talent. They are not afraid to hire people who are better or the best in areas where the present employees are not. They understand the organization's weaknesses and are not afraid to surround themselves with people who have the strengths that they do not have. Best of all, culture brands continue to create opportunities that will help employees realize their full potential. GSD&M CEO Roy Spence states, "We're on a mission to travel the country looking for the best and the brightest. My job, between now and when I die, is to disrupt the marketplace and find talented people who are nice and convince them to come to work for GSD&M. Culture brands believe that people are not an expense but great assets and resources. Moreover, they recognize that a person who is skillful, experienced and knows what he is doing can cover great distances faster and easier than a determined but highly inexperienced and unskilled person in the same situation.

Encourage accountability and empowerment. Culture brands foster a lot of trust and mutual respect among its workforce. Herb Kelleher, Southwest Airline's chairperson declares, "You build self-confidence when you give people the room to take risks and you give them the room to fail. You do not condemn them when they fail, you just say "that's an educational experience and we're going on from here. We've just spent a good bit on your education, we hope to see you apply it in the future." No wonder, Southwest Airlines has more than a hundred heroic stories of employees who have extended more than a helping hand thus, earning the company millions of customers for life.

Foster knowledge, encourage open communication and information and allow candor. While culture brands encourage accountability, they make sure that along with accountability come huge investments in acquiring and updating knowledge base, lots of skills training and business literacy. For example, southwest Airlines and Whole Foods Market make it easy for employees to understand revenues and costs as these translate to net profits through engaging, creative presentations of financial data in posters, websites or through intranet. Likewise, information and open communication is encouraged and even acknowledged across all levels. Southwest Airlines generated a lot of savings, guaranteed job security and remained profitable continuing its service to customers with a lot of help from its employees who care about the airline because they believe Southwest does the same for them. One heroic feat is that of Southwest Airlines maintenance mechanics Rick Denny and John Garamman who saved the company $5.5 million in California when they personally undertook the job of converting gasoline powered tugs to electric at a reduced cost of $27,000 compared to the original conversion cost of $90,000 each. This was after the state of California mandated all airline companies to use ground equipment powered by electricity instead of gasoline.

Move from function to purpose-driven brands. Culture brands have transcended from being functional and emotional products and services to become cause-oriented and purpose-driven employees with greater commitment to the organization. For example at The Container Store, it is no longer about marketing boxes, cartons or shelf organizers but about "providing customers better lives by giving them more time and space." Southwest Airlines is no longer about on time flying at cheaper prices but about "fun and freedom" while Whole Foods talks about a "pleasant, helpful workforce committed to a healthy environment, healthy food and serving the customer." Culture brands inspire commitment among employees by making them feel like heroes while they realize how important their individual contributions are.

GSD&M moved to top class by representing and helping build brands of purpose. CEO Roy Spence admits, "We can't create purpose, we help brands discover it and bring it to life and that's what we are gifted at. If a brand does not have a purpose, we don't want to represent them." Today, GSD&M's competitive advantage is in creative purpose-based branding.

Culture brands are fun and spirited. Culture brands have lots of fun, spunk and spirit. Fun brands are not restricted by bureaucracy, old world structure or dreary, boring environments but are fired by passion, imagination, creativity and lots of productivity.

GSD&M is housed in Idea City in Austin, Texas. Its three-story, 137,600 sq.ft. building complex has a movie theater, a 54,000 sq.ft. studio as well as war rooms for clients. Roy Spence, GSD&M CEO declares, that the goal is to create the most imaginative, eclectic, most creative, energetic environment in the US. The agency has rooms decorated like Hollywood sets to inspire agency people and clients, a diner serving soda fountain treats, a bookstore where coffee is served, a backyard with desks, swings and picnic tables. It has music to go with the mood and every place of the complex—jazz in the bookstore, golden oldies in the diner and country music in the backyard.

These six brands are but just the tip of the iceberg of many other products and services that have leveraged on culture that loves people. They have made it at a time when competition is tough. In most cases these brands represented a late entrant in a mature market or a pioneering product or service in a new market.

Feedback at kdeasis@skyinet.net

Withholding tax rules amendments

By Jose A. Osana
and Venice H. Segarra
SGV & Co.

TAX-FILES

IF AS of June 30 a taxpayer's income does not reach the threshold, then a second disclosure must be filed within 15 days after the end of the month that his income for the current year reaches P720,000.

If an individual also receives professional fee/talent fees/directors fees in addition to salaries from the same payor, the fees will be considered as supplemental compensation subject to withholding tax on compensation.

B. Professional feds, talent fees, etc., for services of taxable juridical persons

RR 30-2003 imposes a 15 percent withholding tax rate if the gross income for the current year exceeds P720,000 or the 10 percent if the gross income for the current year is P720,000 and below, on the said fees.

C. Income payments to partners of general professional partnerships.

These income payments are now subject to a 15 percent withholding tax rate if the gross income for the current year exceeds P720,000 or the 10 percent if the gross income for the current year is P720,000 and below.

C. Professional fees paid to medical practitioners

With the amendments introduced by RR 30-2003, these fees are now subject to 10 percent or 15 percent withholding tax rate depending on whether or not the income payments to the medical practitioner exceed P720,000.

Under the new regulations, it will be the responsibility, not only of the hospital or clinic, but of the HMO as well, to withhold and remit taxes withheld from the following:

a. Professional fees paid by HMOs to medical practitioners;

b. Professional fees paid by patients to medical practitioners thru the hospitals or clinics;

c. Professional fees paid by patients directly to medical practitioners where the 10 percent or 15 percent expanded withholding tax appropriate tax, whichever is applicable, will in turn, be given by the medical practitioners directly to the accounting office of the hospitals or clinics.

Hospitals and clinics are responsible for the accurate computation of the taxes to be withheld on the professional fees paid by the patients through the hospitals and clinics and in the timely remittance of the appropriate taxes. HMOs will be responsible for the computation of the taxes to be withheld from the professional fees paid by them to the medical practitioners as well as their remittance.

Hospitals, clinics or HMOs will issue a Certificate of Creditable Tax Withheld at Source to the medical practitioners who are subjected to withholding, every 20th day following the close of the taxable quarter or upon the request of the payee.

New withholding tax rates

Income payments, other than those covered by other rates of withholding tax, made by the government to its local/resident supplier of goods will now be subject to a one percent withholding tax rate while payments made to its local/resident supplier of services will be subject to a two percent withholding tax rate.

Inclusion of non-food products

Amendments to Section 2.57.2 (S) of RR 2-98 provide that income payments made to suppliers of agricultural products by hardwares, factories and furniture shops will be subject to the one percent withholding tax.

The term agricultural supplier was also expanded to include suppliers/sellers of forest and marine non-food products. In addition, aquamarine products was defined as to include shells and other aquatic products. However, the BIR has suspended, until further notice, the implementation of withholding tax on income payments made to suppliers of agricultural products. (RR 3-2004, March 1, 2004.)

Persons required to deduct and withhold

A. Agents, employees, etc. of withholding agents

It is now provided that agents, employees or any person purchasing goods or services and/or paying for and in behalf of the withholding agents constituted before, shall also withhold in behalf of such withholding agents provided that the official receipts of the payment/sales invoice shall be issued in the name of the withholding agents being represented.

Moreover, the corresponding certificates of taxes withheld (BIR Form No. 2307) shall immediately be issued upon withholding of the tax.

B. Person having control over the payment

RR 30-2003 also constitutes as withholding agent persons having control over the payment and who, at the same time, claims the expenses.

The example given in RR 30-2003 involves the payment by a person to utility companies even if the meter or billing statement is not in the name of the payor, as long as valid proof that payment of a particular expense is being shouldered by the aforementioned payor exists, such as a contract between the registered user of the meter and the actual payor.

Also, payments made by persons sharing a portion of the bill which is in the name of another person as long as the person paying part of the bill is a duly constituted withholding agent shall also be subject to withholding. In such case, he shall only withhold on the portion of the expense being shouldered by him.

Sanctions

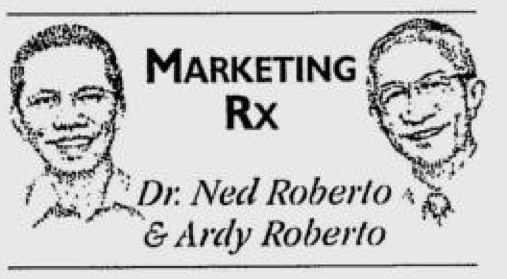
While the burden of paying the tax is actually on the seller-income earner, the obligation to withhold the tax is imposed on the buyer-payor of income. In case there is unjustifiable refusal of the seller-income earner to be subjected to withholding, the same shall be a ground for mandatory audit of his/her income tax liabilities (including withholding tax) upon a verified complaint by the buyer-payor.

Conclusion

With these new rules on withholding of taxes, the government, through the BIR, hopes to achieve its objective of further increasing/strengthening the collection of revenues through the withholding tax system.

This is a reflection of the aggressive stand that the BIR has taken to ensure the collection of taxes. Accordingly, taxpayers must be aware of these amendments to avoid being penalized for failure to comply with the same.

Common-sense marketing tips to boost sales



MARKETING Rx
Dr. Ned Roberto & Ardy Roberto

Q: I'VE been in business for more than 10 years. We are struggling to survive and because of our lack of capital we don't have much money for marketing or advertising. What do you suggest we do?

A: In our own company, the courier company that gets our business is the company that personally calls on us. We hardly pay attention to flyers. It's useful as a reference for promotions but the tipping point is well-timed personal call. Many years ago, a health food restaurant, Mother Saatchi, would call our office at around 11 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. asking if we'd like to have lunch delivered. Without fail everyday, the manager herself would call. Two or three times a week, we would be too busy or lazy to go out and eat, so we'd say "yes" please deliver your packed lunch for the day. Then the manager stopped calling to remind us and we stopped ordering as well. (The manager of the restaurant resigned.)

So if you're a small business owner yourself, you've got to learn to do some personal selling and marketing yourself. Get on the phone and get off your butt!

Q: I just set up my LPG (distributorship) business last year. However, my competition is well entrenched in my territory. We tried one time doing telemarketing and going door-to-door offering (our service). They always say they will order gas from us next time when their (LPG) tank is finished. But whenever we call on them again, they've already ordered (from their old supplier) . I'm thinking of trying direct mail. How much would you think this would cost me?

A: Unless you have a compelling promotional offer, don't do direct mail. To save money before doing anything else, try beating your competition in the placement game by offering households and trade accounts the first tank free. Doug Hall, author of "Meaningful Marketing," writes about a data proven truth in marketing: "When you make a meaningful concession, customers feel an obligation to reciprocate," i.e. You've got to give something to get something.

So don't wait for your prospects to finish off their current supply of gas, go ahead and make door-to-door calls again offering to drop off a free first tank. They'll feel obligated to order the next and the next tanks from you.

If all else fails, just remember the cardinal rule in personal selling: Never give up.

A survey on selling revealed that 48 percent of all salespeople quit after the first sales call; 25 percent quit after the second call; 12 percent quit after the third call; 5 percent quit after the fourth call; and 10 percent quit after the fifth call or later.

According to Ronald Marks in his book "Personal Selling—A Relational Approach," it was discovered that "80 percent of the orders were written during or after the fifth call. The study also found that only 10 percent of the salespeople had the persistence to call back often enough to secure the order. This does not mean that each contact must necessarily be face-to-face. It may be in low-cost, non-confrontational ways, such as letters, phone calls, faxes or email."

Q: We're looking at ways to increase our 'share-of-pocket' of shoppers who enter our store. Should we start our own 'club' or loyalty program? How does that work?

A: A couple of weeks ago, the junior MRx entered the new Memo store in Glorietta, Makati, looking for a new pair of walking shorts. The Memo store staff, a guy named Eduardo, helped out and started showing the Jr. MRx some other stuff in a very non-pushy, but friendly way. Instead of just shorts, the Jr. MRx left with a pair of pants and a polo shirt as well.

Doug Hall writes about data proven marketing truth No. 86: "Be likeable." He says, "Customers are three times more likely to purchase when they like the message form and/or the messenger . . . When customers feel good, they're more likely to purchase."

The music at the store was feel-good '60s + '70s music and the staff was very polite and friendly. The clincher was when Eduardo saw that the Jr. MRx had a BPI card in his wallet and suggested that we use it to get a 10 percent discount.

These are the little common-sense marketing tips that you can apply to boost your sales. Should you launch your own shopper's club? We'll answer that next week! A Master in Entrepreneurship graduate from AIM has a great case study to answer that questions. *Email your questions at MarketingRX@Saltand-Lightventures.com.*

Semiconductor exports seen up 10-15% in 2004

By Ronnel W. Domingo

EXPORTS of the semiconductor and electronics sector are expected to post an export growth of at least 10 percent or P24 billion this year, far short of the global growth pace of 24 percent.

The Semiconductor and Electronics Industries in the Philippines, thus, asked the government for more support to enable the P230-billion sector to ride on the renewed surge in global demand for electronics and semiconductor products.

"Our projections show that (domestic investments in the sector) could grow by as high as 15 percent," Seipi president Norberto Viera said.

"We need renewed government support to continue building the country as an investment destination of choice for high-technology manufacturing," he added.

Viera, who is also president of Texas Philippines Inc., added that the disparity in local and global growth rates was due to the dearth of investments in new facilities.

"What we have are merely expansion projects for existing ones," he explained.

Arthur J. Young Jr., Seipi vice present as well as PSi Technologies Inc. chair and chief executive, said one reason for this was the global firms' strategy to diversify or spread out their operations to different regions.

"We have the industry giants operating in the country, but they don't want all the eggs in one basket," Young said.

Even then, Seipi executive director Ernie B. Santiago said "the good times have returned and the key economic indicators point toward a robust recovery."

Santiago said the sector grew by 6 percent or $6.15 billion in the first quarter year on year, putting the sector well on its way to even exceeding the full-year growth target of 10 percent.

At the same time, the Seipi officials called on the government to put up a "First 100 days action agenda" that would help make the sector grow.

Seipi identified urgent issues affecting the industry:

First, bringing down the cost of electricity, which accounts for a big portion of the sector's cost of doing business.

Seipi recommended the provision of special discounts for large power users as well as a discount based on the time of use—peak time as opposed to off-peak time.

Second, extending the contractual employment of six months up to the life cycle of semiconductor and electronics products, which is about three years.

Seipi also asked for flexibility in the 48-hour work week, like having 12-hour days four times a week rather than 8-hour days six times a week.

And third, giving priority to the development of roads, airports and telecommunications to and from economic zones and industrial parks.

Equitable PCI opposes RCBC plea on Bankard

By Doris C. Dumlao

EQUITABLE PCI Bank has opposed the petition of the Yuchengcos' RCBC Capital Corp. to nullify the purchase of credit card issuer Bankard Inc.

RCBC Capital filed the petition at the International Chamber of Commerce in Paris on grounds that it overpaid EPCIBank by about P600 million as documents failed to show the true financial condition of the company in 1999.

RCBC Capital paid a total of P1.78 billion for 67 percent of Bankard.

"The share purchase agreement between EPCIBank and Rizal Commercial Banking Corp. was executed on May 24, 2000. RCBC was then given until December of the same year to bring to EPCIBank's attention any liabilities, omissions or mistakes on its financial statements that could have a material effect on Bankard's net worth," EPCIBank yesterday said in a statement.

EPCIBank added that the audited financial statements furnished to RCBC at the time of the sale were complete and were prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles by the same accounting firm of RCBC.

"RCBC had full, unrestricted access to Bankard's officers and records beginning May 2000, and had exercised full supervisory and operational control effective September 2000," the bank said.

In May last year, EPCIBank said RCBC belatedly made a demand for a reduction in its purchase price of Bankard.

"RCBC belatedly made a demand for a reduction of the purchase price which was way beyond the contracted deadline of December 2000," EPCIBank said.

Cocktales

From page B3

lost in her bid for the lone congressional seat of Camarines Norte against incumbent Renato Unico Jr. of Lakas-CMD.

Despite being one of the frequent rally speakers denouncing the corrupt Erap regime during the Edsa 2 days, Chato saw no wrong in running under the FPJ-Erap party in the last elections.

Chato, whose favorite rally song happens to be "Impossible Dream," also sought, but failed, to win a Senate seat in 2001.

Heard through the grapevine

FROM the yearend's 37,719 shares, PLDT chair Manuel V. Pangilinan now reports that his shareholding in Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. has grown to 59,419 shares. At yesterday's close of P1,050, that stockpile is worth P62,389,950.

(Email: cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com.)

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8:00 am - 9:00
9:00 - 9:30
9:30 - 10:00
CEO Breakfast Forum
Hosted by CICT Chairman Virgilio L. Peña
YAKAL Room
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NARRA: B2B Opportunities
SME Financing — Melvin Abanto VP, Small Business Corp
RP Competitiveness in ICT — Titos Ortigas Professor, AIM Policy Center
European IT Outsourcing — Thomas Rolf European IT Service Center

10:00 - 10:30 NETW 2004 Opening Ceremonies (2nd Floor) - CICT Chairman Virgilio L. Peña and NTC Commissioner Ronald O. Solis
10:30 - 12:00 PSIS 2004 Main Conference (Ballroom III)
Plenary Welcome Remarks / Sectoral Statements / Brief on WSIS
Implications for the Philippines - CICT Chairman Virgilio L. Peña
Presentation: Towards a PSIS Declaration and Action Plan
12:00 nn - 1:00 LUNCH ITFP Luncheon Event: Manpower Development: Key to Building the Philippine Information Society
1:00 pm - 3:00 Break-out sessions / Workshops
3:00 - 4:00 Preparation of Group Presentations to Plenary
4:00 - 5:00 Plenary
5:00 Closing

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	YAKAL: B2B Opportunities	TANGUILE: Public Telecommunications	NARRA: Mobile Computing
2:00 pm - 2:30	Business Process Resourcing James M. Donovan, President, American Data Exchange	GSM Association John Lipp, GSA	3G Market Update Henrik Glud, Nokia
2:30 - 3:00	Mobile Banking Edgardo R. Castro, President, Computer Data Visions	Use of GSM, SMS & Satellite technology In the Delivery of Educational Content Frankie Naranjilla, Nokia	Wireless Mobility Dan P. Galler, Managing Dir, CP Comm Svcs Inc.
3:00 - 3:30	JAVA System Strategy Dan Toh SW Sales Mnager, Sun Asia South	Broadband Access Networks Using New Technologies Like DWDM Cocoy Claravall, Innove	Get the Facts: Choosing the Right Technology for Your Business Peter Moore, CTO, Microsoft
3:30 - 4:00	Call Center Management Larry Marasigan Ateneo Center for Continuing Education	Broadband DSL, WLAN, WiFi Gary B. Olivar Chief Financial Officer, Bayantel	Growth Parameters to Improve Mobile Operator's Business Hans Josef Brueggen, Ericsson
4:00 - 4:30	SW License Royalty Taxes Mary Bautista Villareal, Joaquin Cunanan & Co	WiFi Security Chew Kuan Beng, SEA Technical Mktg Engr, Intel	Multi-pt Desktop Video Conferencing William T. Torres President, Mozcom
4:30 - 5:00	CMM - How to Get Started Joselyn T. Capistrano SCAMPI Lead Appraiser	Broadband Satellite Tawan Tanrattanawong Regional Director, Asia Shin Satellite	Motorola Canopy Broadband Wireless Platform Rangel Floranda, Regional Engring Mgr, Motorola

MAY 17 — The 1st PSIS/NETW CICT Chairman's Cup Golf Tournament, Phil Navy Golf Club, Fort Bonifacio
MAY 18, 20, 21 — IECEP University Lecture Series, Open House Corporate Presentations
MAY 20 — The i-Society Concert featuring The Freestyle, NBC Tent, Fort Bonifacio
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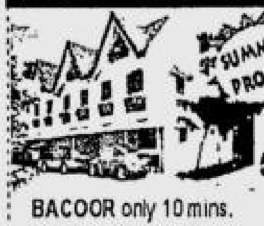

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HOUSE & LOT

MANILA

SN ANDRES MANILA
Bnew/Twnhse/3sty/3br/3tb/grge
P3.375M up 8903461 loc 34

SN ANDRES nr A. FRANCISCO
3stry/5br/5 1/2T&B/4cargarage/mini gym recreation hall/music rm/library /maid's rm FA398m²P11.5M 8903461

MARIKINA

Bnew 4BR 3TB 2.8M 9487112

PARANAQUE

Verdant T-house Hse & Lot No UP 20T/mo 0927 2805153

HOUSE & LOT

RIZAL

4BR subd w/MlaH2O nr Masinag mkt Antipolo P3M T6820150

LAGUNA

LOS BANOS Hse & Lot 414sqm PANSOL 3M 0917-3380460

CONDO/TWNHSE

MAKATI

1.6M C5 Nr The Fort
12T/mo. or 3Yrs No Int. or 10% D.P. LIPAT AGAD 2-4BR 15min Fr Mkti 0917-8313226

MKT NR AYALA
BnewTwnhse 3stry.3br/2-2 1/2tb/grge P3.285M up 8903461 loc 34

Kensington Parkplace In Fort Bonifacio 0917-5213838

MANILA

Near UST 250sq.m 634-1212

nr UST, ESPANA TOWER
6873372 0917-8102903

QUEZON CITY

2br Burgundy FF Katipunan 09178943697 P20T 3.2 Neg

Condo 8K/mo.; Coml Resl Off Hotel Income 58K; Call Rudy 705-1445 / 0920-9051246

CUBAO 1.5M No Int. 9132224

LOT

MALABON

Bargain Sale:H&L US$50,000 LA-310m² FA-150m² 7211222

QUEZON CITY

AYALA HILLS
Golf View 450m² to 700m² Cash / Terms / Bank Financing Sol Soriano-Ayala Broker 6376691 6372142 6377824

★AYALA HILLS★
ALSO AYALA HEIGHTS
MRS. GASTON 931-2938/48
AYALA LAND BROKER

PROVINCIAL

★TAGAYTAY COLDEST★
240m²-up 3,750/m²-TERMS Low DP/No No interest, nr Taal Vista 6609372

RIZAL

Alg Smulong Antipolo 3749m² good4gas station 09178102903

LAGUNA

•STA. ROSA Beside LaSalle• near Ateneo & Malls 120m²-up P90T Down Low Mo No Int 6609372

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

FARM/FISHPEN/ RAWLANDS

Alubijid Mis. OR. 34 Has Near Int'l Airport 25min 2 CDO 750-3231 Luz

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

COMMERCIAL/ RESIDENTIAL

MANILA

TONDO Store+2BR 1TB Apts. P9T 2333548/0920-2276509

HOUSE

ALABANG

141 Batangas West Ayala Alabang 5BR 5TB w/s-pool Nicole 09175265778

MAKATI

Belair w/pool 3br P120T 8133828/27

CONDO/TWNHSE

MAKATI

SANLO DUPLEX 5268048/49

APARTMENT

MAKATI

2Bdrm/ U/Dn T8973770 / 1Cr SigH2O/Npnl/Screen/Cmpd

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Screened Quiet 2storey 2BR T-6354244 Prefer2 w/o kids 4 Sn Clemente Kapitolyo

QUEZON CITY

Brnd new studio type Proj 2 4342604 / 0919-2876641

CUBAO P3.8 STD LADY 9124428

ROOM & BOARD

BF PQUE 8275345 / 8255724

•Furnish Pasay 887-2865•

Ldys Dorm nr UST 7316386

Mla nr Chinese Gen 7118679

BEDSPACE

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A/C Rm 2.5ea nr LaSalle 953-0642

RESORT LEASE/ RENT

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LOAN & MORTGAGE

1.4%MONTHLY=8976644 to 46 LAS PINAS=8736236 & 4098 QUEZON CITY=3730239 to 40

2% W/O TAKING CAR 3677523/24

OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT

14 Quezon Ave QC 6T/mo 09198157438 ; 9120392

MALATE MLA 526-8048/49

TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

CARS

HONDA

CRV 2000 manual v good cond P580,000 09163382418 8981884

NISSAN

'89 N.Patrol 240TH 631-9964

Cefiro 2003 3000km P1.05M 722-6415

OTHER CAR BRANDS

Land Cruiser Pajero Surf Delica Hi-Town Ace Estima Terrano Space Gear Canter Elf etc Financing T-in OK 09178342020 / 9120647

ITSS Resources, Inc.

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

The Board of Directors, in a Special Meeting held last April 30, 2004 in the office of the Corporation located at Suite 102, Emerald Mansion, Emerald Ave., Ortigas Center, Pasig City, unanimously adopted the resolution appointing and designating Mr. Don P. Mabalot as President of the Company.

(For POEA purposes only)

Republic of the Philippines
Local Civil Registry Office
Province: Negros Oriental
City/Municipality Siaton

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION

In compliance with Section 5 of R.A. Act No. 9048, a notice is hereby served to the public that Daisy Mae Ampode Echanes has filed with this Office a petition for change of first name from "DAISY" to "DAISY MAE" in the birth certificate of DAISY AMPODE ECHANES who was born on 3 August, 1984 at Don Carlos, Bukidnon and whose parents are George Palopo Echanes and Florlina Colago Ampode.

Any person adversely affected by said petition may file his written opposition with this Office not later than May 6, 2004

(Sgd.) JACK D. ABELLA
Municipal Civil Registrar

May 14 & 17, 2004)

TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

BOATS

COASTWISE TUGBOAT SALE/LEASE CALL TEL 521-90-09 525-27-51

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

CARS FOR RENT

1T/Hiace 9136710/4333682

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Q.C. BR 426-2278 • 426-4084
MARIKINA BR. 998-8210

Bridal Altis Vans 825-4058

CAR VANS 410-0495

CARS/VANS/BRIDAL 8969956

Cheap Van Rental 9330311

REVO w/driver 9272821

Starex 254-2249, 0919-8128204

Toyco U Drive Coaster / Car Vans Rental 8023022-21

CAR LOAN

1.5% Fast Car Loan 3677523/24

1.5% 1HR CAR LOAN 3743803

1.5% CAR LOAN 6567685

1.5% CARLOAN 373-6519

1.5% CARLOAN 533-8254

1.5% Easy Carloan 7815352/55

1.5% Fast Car Loan 6560140

1.5% w/oTaking Car 3650974/75

1.5% w/oTaking Car 3732081-82

1.5% w/oTaking Car 7228942-43

•1HR Fast Car Loan 7125202•

2% w/o Taking Car 7262780

2% w/oTaking Car 8966630/33

2% w/oTaking Car 8870490/95

2% w/oTaking Car 7221021

2% w/oTaking Car 8959454

BUSN DRS OFW 524-3197

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

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EDUCATION PLANS 780-0106

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PUBLIC NOTICES

ANNOUNCEMENT

Enrollment Going On! Caregiver Course Quality Care Training for Caregivers T-4392420 / 4380511

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the intestate estate of the late ISAGANI O. SANTIAGO has been extrajudicially settled by his heirs as per Doc. 225; Page 51; Book 43; Series of 2004 before Notary Public Atty. William S. Merginio of Quezon City.
Apr. 30, May 7, & 14 2004)

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

6-Fig Income 09209124125

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Pasig City 09196222798

Oxford Suites MAKATI Condominium Corporation

We are seeking an **Owner Relations / Condominium Manager** for Oxford Suites Hotel Makati. The property is a 27-storey building with 232 rooms and is a 4-star hotel located in the Makati Business District.

The successful candidate profile is:

- a take-charge attitude, results-oriented.
- a self-starter, confident, and self-assured.
- at least 2 years condominium management experience
- having a good maintenance management background, including preventive maintenance programs and establishing maintenance priorities.
- possessing excellent written and verbal communication skills, organizaiton, team building and computer skills.

Reporting to the Hotel Manager and Board of Directors, the candidate should be skilled and experienced in facilities preservation, financial management, budget development, customer service and community governance. The selected candidate must be a good communicator, have a sincere interest and concern for residents and shareholders and be able to provide staff motivation. Strong customer service orientation is critical.

Salary commensurate with experience.

Please send your resumé quoting reference ORM-052004 for Owner Relations Manager to: The Hotel Manager, Oxford Suites Makati Hotel, Durban cor. P. Burgos Sts., Makati City 1200 • Email veronica_dg@oxfordsuitesmakati.com

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AUCTION

www.henrybutcher.com

FUSO BUS; AIR CONDITIONING SYSTEMS; MACHINE/HAND TOOLS; GEAR MOTORS; PUMPS

On: Tuesday, 18th May 2004 - 10:30am Sharp

MOTOR VEHICLE: FUSO 1997 45-Seater Tourist Bus
AIRCONDITIONING SYSTEMS: (4) CARRIER 39E39L 60 Tonner Air Conditioner Unit, (8) CARRIER 38AKSO34 30T Condenser Units; (2) CARRIER CB-FC-30D-28 Centrifugal Blower Assembly; (4) CARRIER Compressor Condenser Split System Units; KOPPEL 7-Tonner Split Type Air Conditioning; (2) KOPPEL 5 Tonner Split Type Airconditioners; (10) COOL MASTER 5 Tonner Split Type Air Conditioners;
MACHINE/HAND TOOLS: (4) ISAKI Air Cooled Diesel Engine Generators; (5)ISAKI Welding Generators; (2) SATO Portable Welders; DONGIA Plastic Welder; Heavy Duty Planers; Pedestal Drills; Bandsaws;' Drill Presses; DEWALT Concrete Breakers; SIMPLE TORQON Electric Torque Wrenches; Disc Grinders; MAKITA Electric Planer; MAKITA Drill and Grinder Sets; BOSCH Drill & Grinder Sets; Screw Driver Sets; Vice Grips; Bottle Jacks; CROSSMAN Socket Wrench Sets; SUNWA Multitesters; TOPCON DM-S3L Digital Engineers Transit; etc.
GEAR MOTOR/PUMPS: ITT MARLOW Self-Priming Pumps; SVANEJOH Centrifugal Pumps; RELIANCE Gear Motors; DOUGE H-GEAR Gear Boxes; etc.
MISCELLANEOUS: Stainless Dry Ovens; G.E. Silicon Sealant; Hardeners; Dry Films; 32" & 24" Dia Reinforced Concrete Pipes; Work Stations
FURNITURE: Office Partitions, etc.
ELECTRICAL COMPONENTS: G.E. Main Switches; G.E. Electronic Overload Relays; G.E. Den 33-F Distribution Board Enclosure; S-Quare D Magnetic Starters; Cutter; Hammer Magnetic Starters; Terminal Kits; Assorted Electrical Fittings; 15 tons XLPE 300 MCM Power Cables & Control Cables; 12 tons Wire Ladders; etc.

At: Henry Butcher Auction Center
c/o Hilon Compound, Bo. Mayapa, Canlubang, Laguna
On View: Monday 17 May 2004 from 9am to 5pm & morning of sale day
Refundable Deposit: Php20,000 (Upon Registration)

GoIndustry Henry Butcher
INDUSTRIAL ASSET DISPOSAL AND VALUATION
HENRY BUTCHER INTERNATIONAL PHILIPPINES INC.
Rm. 102 Jolliland Bldg., 670 Edsa, Pasay City, Philippines
Tel No.: +(63-2) 852-2910 * 11 Fax No.: +(63-2) 831-9507
E-mail:manila@henrybutcher.com
Website: www.henrybutcher.com/www.goindustry.com

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Finance
BUREAU OF CUSTOMS
4th Collection District
Batangas

NOTICE OF AUCTION SALE

Pursuant to the provision of Sec. 2601 and other related provisions of the Tariff and Customs Code of the Philippines, there will be a Public Auction Sale to be conducted at the Legal Division, 3rd Floor, Bureau of Customs Bldg., Sta. Clara, Batangas City on **May 18, 2004** of the hereunder articles. Said goods shall be available for public viewing on **May 14 & 17, 2004** at the ATI-AASI Container Yard, Sta. Clara, Batangas City and Infinite Success International Corp., Diversion Road, Bolbok, Batangas City, respectively. For further inquiry, please contact the following telephone numbers (043) 722-0677.

Sale Lot No. 1	: 6 x 20' Container Vans (2,600 Bags of Rice more or less) of Flying Eagle White Rice under Bats. S.I. No. 05-03.
1st Advertisement :	
Floor Price	: Php 18.00 per kilo
Location	: "AS IS WHERE IS"
Sale Lot No. 2	: 2,468 Bags of Imported Garlic @ 20kgs. / bag (49,360 kgs.), subject of Bats. S.I. No. 02-04
1st Advertisement :	
Floor Price	: Php 27.00 per kilo
Location	: "AS IS WHERE IS"

(Sgd.) NAPOLEON L. MORALES
District Collector of Customs

(PDI – May 14, 2004)

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

RETIRE 2YRS (02) 850-9553

RTW Consign 09167940002

Seeking serious biz partners with ready capital of not less than P17,000 to be part of an Int'l Biz that's expanding to US, Canada, etc, with a group of biz leaders from Singapore. No Texting. Call 09275680230.

DIRECT SALE

SIDELINE: JEWELRY CONSIGN ORIENTATION M-S@8-8 4531478

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

WANTED TO BUY

CAP, TPG EDUC PLAN 2528373

Wanted to Buy Used Imported Trailer chassis 40 footer Call or Text (0916)400-9245

DEFECT TV/COMPO 7325865

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

FEMALE

MAIDS DIRECT HIRE 8705554

Wanted Tutor 725-4870

MALE/FEMALE

JOB HIRING 09167054572 AINA

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

MALE/FEMALE

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☎ 6350219 ☎ 6872354 ☎ 6872366 Fax 6350220
G/F TRINITY BLDG., 636 T.M. KALAW ST., ERMITA, MANILA
☎ 5273342 ☎ 5224406 ☎ 5276357 Fax 5280213
ALABANG, MUNTINLUPA CITY
☎ 8424503 ☎ 8506465 Fax 8506465
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THE HERITAGE PARK
FORT BONIFACIO
Bayani Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig
(632) 845-2334 to 38 loc. 109/112
Sales@heritagepark.com.ph
Mortuary and Crematory opening soon!

"Jesus, King of Mercy I trust in you"

LINA ESTEBAN ESTELLA

Died in the Peace of Lord on May 13, 2004
at the age of 76.

Her loving husband **Mardonio** (†); children **Ernie, Maripi** (†), **Oscar, Mari** & **Monet**; son-in-law, **Danny**; daughters-in-law **Alma** and **Jojie**; parents **Placido** (†) and **Caridad** (†); brothers **Emilio** (†), **Antonio** (†) and **Francis** (†); sister **Carmeling**; brothers-in-law **Peding** and **Mael**; sisters-in-law **Baby** and **Nita**; grandchildren; great grandchildren; nephews and nieces; relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her body lies in state at the Funeraria Paz Chapels, Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque.

Cremation will be on Sunday, May 16, 2004 after the 2:00 P.M. Mass.

In lieu of flowers, we will appreciate donations to the San Andres Parish Church Restoration, Masinloc, Zambales.

Our Dearly Beloved

NATIVIDAD MANUEL VDA. DE BOLINAO

Peacefully joined our Lord
on May 12, 2004 at the age of 88.

Her loving children **Norma, Amelia, Nardo** (†) & **Celine, Ed** & **Edna, Rey** & **Amor, Jerry** & **Mayette**; surviving sister **Lily**; brother **Romeo** & **Remedios**; grandchildren, other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the St. Therese of the Child Jesus Parish Church, Filinvest (East) Marcos Highway, Antipolo City.

Interment will be on Sunday, May 16, 2004 at Heaven's Gate 1, Antipolo City after the 12 noon mass at the same parish church.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
❶ Copy of Death Certificate
❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT
MESSAGE OF THANKS
DEATH ANNIVERSARY
REQUIEMS
FREE OBIT DESIGN

WE ACCEPT CREDIT CARDS and bank-to-bank payments

In Loving Memory
on the 2nd Death Anniversary of

ARTURO SIDDONS YABUT "TORO"

1962 – 2002

Masses will be offered today, May 14, 2004,
at the following churches:

Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish .... 6:00 AM
Orense St., Guadalupe Nuevo, Makati City
Sts. Peter & Paul .... 6:00 AM
P. Burgos St., Makati City
National Shrine of the Sacred Heart .... 6:00 AM
San Antonio Village, Makati City
Mater Dolorosa Parish .... 6:00 AM
East Rembo, Makati City
Sta. Teresita Parish .... 6:00 AM
West Rembo, Makati City
St. Alphonsus Mary de Liguori Chapel .... 6:15 AM
Magallanes Village, Makati City 7:00 AM
6:00 PM
St. Michael Chaplaincy .... 6:30 AM
Fort Bonifacio, Taguig
Manila Memorial Park .... 10:00 AM
Yabut Mausoleum, Parañaque City
Sanctuario De San Antonio Parish .... 12:15 PM
Forbes Park, Makati City
Sto. Niño De Paz Chapel .... 12:15 PM
Greenbelt, Ayala Center, Makati City
Nuestra Sra. De Gracia Parish .... 6:00 PM
Guadalupe Viejo, Makati City
St. John Bosco Parish .... 6:00 PM
Pasay Road, Makati City
St. Andrew, The Apostle Parish .... 6:30 PM
Bel-Air II, Makati City

The Family requests relatives and friends to remember him in their prayers

---

Even when I walk through a dark valley, I feel no harm.
For you are at my side, your rod & staff give me courage.
Psalm 23:4

WALTER J. OSCARIS

Born on April 20, 1939
Died on May 14, 2004

His remains lie in state at Arlington Memorial Chapels, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment to be announced later.

He is survived by his wife **MYRNA**, and children **ROSALIE, ROSANNE, WALTER, JR. & ROSANNA, WINSTON & ANGELI MARIE.**

"God sees when your footsteps falter,
When the path has grown too steep;
Then He touches your weary eyelids
And gives His dear one... sleep.

AMPARO da SILVA Vda. de MARTINEZ

Peacefully joined her Creator
on May 12, 2004 at the age of 89.

Her bereaved children **Pancho**, **Marilen** and **Manolet**; in-laws, grandchildren, great-grandchild, nephews and nieces; relatives and friends request the readers to remember her in their prayers.

Her cremains will lie in state at Arlington Memorial Chapels, #12 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City until Sunday the 16th of May. Services will be conducted on a daily basis.

"For My yoke is easy and my burden is light." Matthew 11:30

For the needs of your departed Loved Ones, the following establishments can help you.

ARLINGTON MEMORIAL CHAPEL
12 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City; Tels. 715-1025; 715-1031; 715-1027
ARLINGTON EAST THE GARDEN CHAPELS
C. Raymundo St. cor. Mercedes Ave., San Miguel Ave., Pasig City
Tels. 747-8599; 747-8609 • Telefax 641-1760
AUREA QUIOGUE FUNERAL HOMES
243 A.B Fernandez Ave., Dagupan City, Pangasinan
Tels. (0785) 522-3451; 522-2128; (0917) 434-9976
CAPITOL MEMORIAL CHAPELS INC.
1305 G. Araneta Ave., Quezon City; Tel. 732-0309; 732-1095
CEBU ROLLING HILLS MEMORIAL CHAPELS INC.
Cebu Branch: A.S. Fortuna Street, Banilad, Mandaue City, Cebu;
Tels. 346-2543; 346-2601
COSMOPOLITAN FUNERAL HOMES, INC.
Nivel Hills, Lahug, Cebu City; Tels. 231-0721; 231-3192
COSMOPOLITAN FUNERAL HOMES, INC.
Camus Ext. cor. J. Abad Santos, Davao City; Tels (082) 227-1201; 227-1258
DAYAO FUNERAL HOME
#2 Bayani St., Galas, Quezon City;
Tels. 740-2683; 781-3705; 781-3688; 413-9400; 715-5594
DALLUAY MEMORIAL SERVICES
#42 Upper Kalaklan, Olongapo City
Tels. (047) 222-3605; (047) 811-1086; (047) 222-4512; (047) 224-2014
DON BOSCO CHAPELS
Pasay Road, Makati City; Tel. 894-5932 to 34
DULCE MEMORIAL SERVICES
Jose Abad Santos Ave. cor. Dinalupihan St., Manuguit, Manila
Tels. 712-5102, 741-5125; 741-5133; Fax No. 711-3064
DYNASTY MEMORIAL CHAPELS
965 Del Monte Ave., Frisco, Quezon City; Tels. 416-3231; 4162373
ERIC SANTIAGO MEMORIAL CHAPELS
26 Bayanbayan Ave., Concepcion I, Marikina City; Tels. 942-6044; 475-1177
FLORESCO FUNERAL HOME
219 Gen. Luna St., Concepcion, Malabon, Metro Manila;
Tels 2812963; 2813034; 2810522
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Tels. (045) 888-2959 ; (045) 322-5247
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No. 67 Pasig Boulevard Extension, Pasig City; Tels. 641-7909; 641-1735
M. Almeda St., Pateros, Metro Manila; Tels 642-3010; 633-3602
FUNERARIA FILIPINAS
187 Real St., Zapote Alabang, Las Piñas; Tels. 873-0507; 873-0024

FUNERARIA FILIPINAS
865 J.P. Rizal St., Poblacion, Makati City; Tels. 890-3556; 899-8191
FUNERARIA TUASON
Poblacion, San Miguel, Bulacan 3011; Tels. (044) 764-0281; 678-0266; (0917) 895-0603
FUNERARIA SAMSON
145 Bayan Luma, Imus, Cavite; Tels. (046) 471-3375; 471-2675
GARDEN OF MEMORIES MEMORIAL PARK
Calsadang Bago, Pateros, Metro Manila; Tels. 642-6181 to 82
HERITAGE PARK
Bayani Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila
Tels. (DL) 845-2341 to 42; (TL) 845-2334 to 38 loc. 110/112
HOLY GARDENS MEMORIAL PARK
Third Level, Unishoppe Complex, Quezon Ave., Angono, Rizal; Tels. 651-1711; 651-0737
HOLY TRINITY MEMORIAL CHAPELS
Dr. A. Santos Ave., Sucat Rd., Sucat, Parañaque City;
Tels. 825-1296; 825-1291, Telefax: 825-1314
LA FUNERARIA LAWRENCE BAQUIRAN
#27 Crisologo St., Vigan, Ilocos Sur;
Tel. 722-2730; Cell (0917) 5680136; (0917) 5680145
Manila #23 Pato St., Project 2, Quezon City; Tel. 434-3258
LA FUNERARIA PAZ, INC.
1501 C.M. Recto Ave. cor. T. Mapua, Manila;
Tels. 711-6931 to 35; 732-4795; 732-2827
LA FUNERARIA PAZ, INC.
143 G. Araneta Ave. cor. Kaliraya St., Quezon City
Tels. 749-3606 to 11; 712-3001; 743-6502 or 05
LA FUNERARIA PAZ, SUCAT, INC.
Dr. A. Santos Ave., Sucat, Parañaque; Tels. 820-1592; 825-9947; 825-8635
LA FUNERARIA PAZ, INC.
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PHILIPPINE NATIONAL BANK

NOTICE OF ANNUAL STOCKHOLDERS' MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Annual Meeting of Stockholders of the Philippine National Bank will be held on May 25, 2004 at 8:00 a.m. at the Ballroom, Upper Lobby, Century Park Hotel, 599 Pablo Ocampo Sr. St., Malate, Manila.

The Agenda for the meeting is as follows:

1. Call to Order
2. Secretary's Proof of Notice and Quorum
3. Approval of the Minutes of the 2003 Annual Stockholders' Meeting held on May 27, 2003
4. Report of the President on the Results of Operations for the Year 2003
5. Approval of the 2003 Annual Report
6. Ratification of All Acts and Proceedings of the Board of Directors and Corporate Officers since the 2003 Annual Stockholders' Meeting
7. Election of Directors
8. Appointment of External Auditor
9. Other Matters
10. Adjournment

Minutes of the 2003 Annual Stockholders' Meeting as well as resolutions of the Board of Directors from May 27, 2003 will be available for examination during office hours at the Office of the Corporate Secretary.

Only stockholders of record as of April 26, 2004 will be entitled to notice of and vote at this meeting. Registration will begin at 6:00 a.m.

If you cannot personally attend the meeting, you may designate your authorized representative by submitting a **PROXY** to the Office of the Corporate Secretary not later than 5:00 p.m. on May 19, 2004. Any proxies so received will be validated on May 20, 2004, 9:30 a.m., at the Office of the Stock Transfer Agent at Allied Bank Center, 6754 Ayala Avenue, Makati City.

Pasay City, March 5, 2004

RENATO J. FERNANDEZ
Corporate Secretary

HSBC estimates RP '04 growth at 4.4%

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PHILIPPINE economy is expected to grow by 4.4 percent this year, sustaining its pace over the past three years, according to British financial giant HSBC.

HSBC's growth outlook for the Philippines was within the International Monetary Fund's forecast of 4-4.5 percent but lower than the government's target of 4.9-5.8 percent.

HSBC said in its May report that it was "mildly bullish" about the Philippines, but stressed that the country needed to reverse the ballooning public sector deficit, which reached an "uncomfortable" level.

HSBC based its assessment on stronger export activity, a good balance of payment position, moves on the fiscal front as well as credible general elections.

The bank said the government would likely keep its deficit this year to below the P197.8-billion ceiling, based on positive developments in the first quarter of the year.

"Notwithstanding the favorable near-term fiscal situation, a creditable, medium-term fiscal consolidation plan has to be introduced as public sector debt is already at an uncomfortable level," HSBC said.

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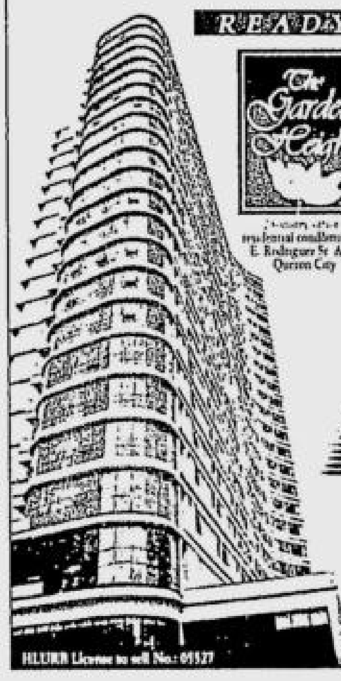

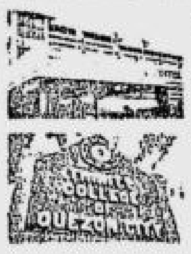

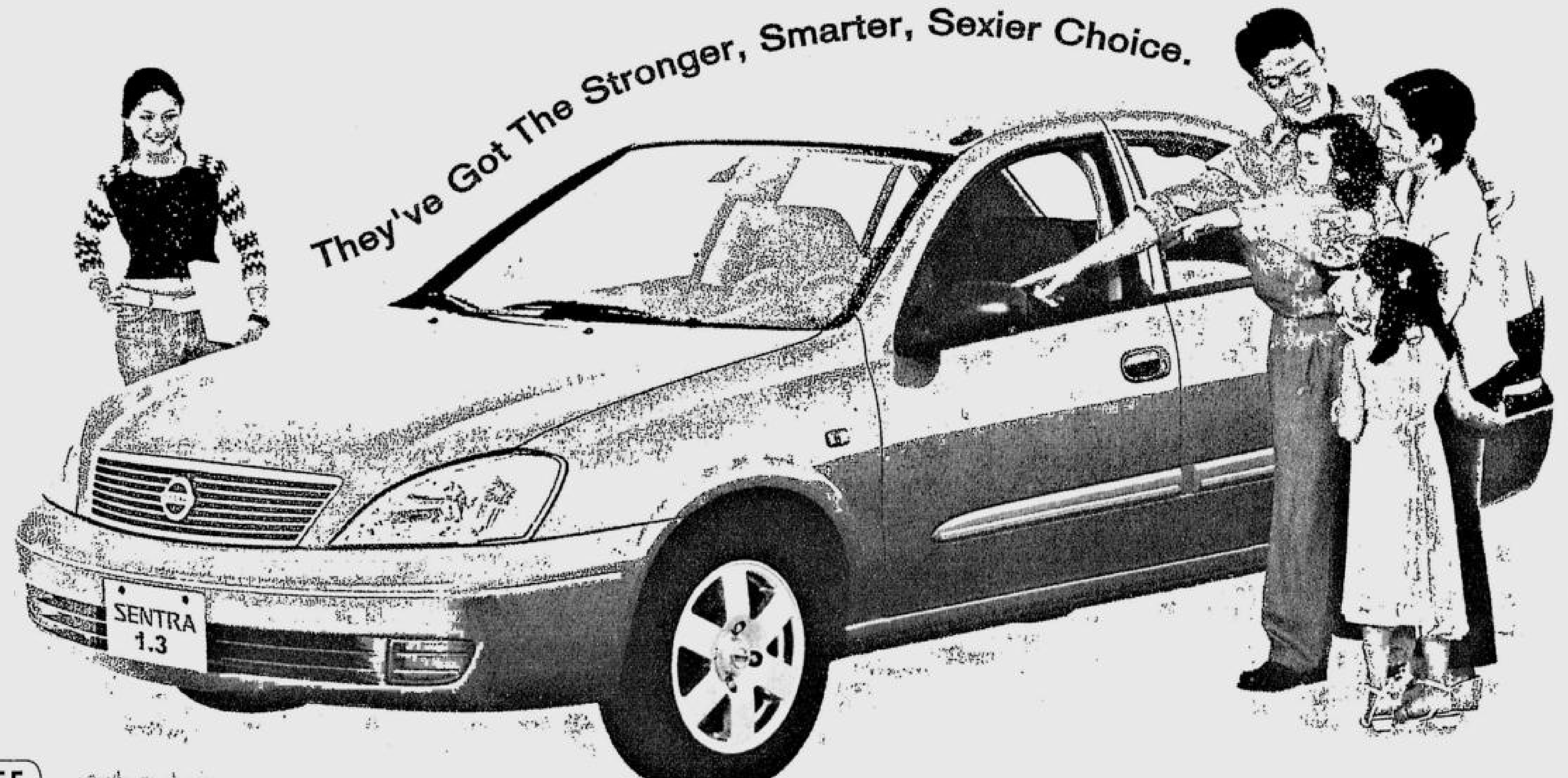
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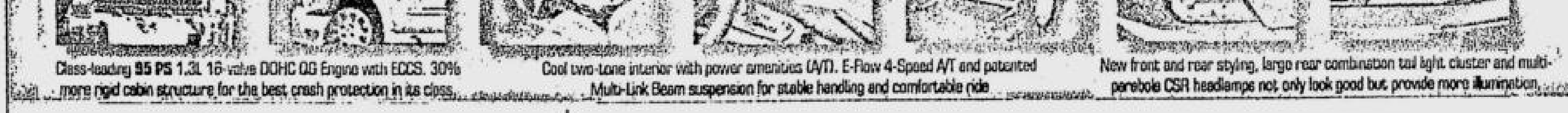

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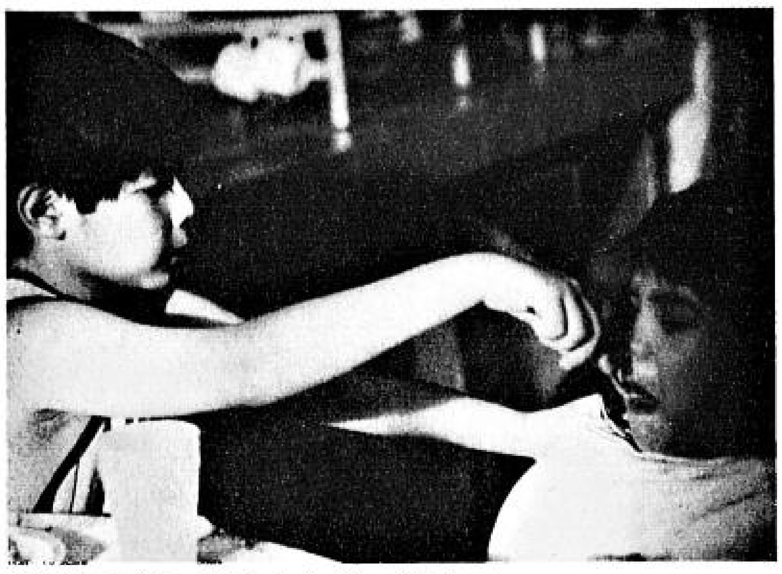

'MAGNIFICO' with Manio (left) and De Leon

'CRYING LADIES' Angel Aquino, Sharon Cuneta and Hilda Koronel

'Magnifico' tops Urian nominees

DE LOS REYES, 'Magnifico'

JETURIAN, 'Bridal Shower'

MEILY, 'Crying Ladies'

O'HARA, 'Babae sa Breakwater'

REYES, 'Malikmata'

"MAGNIFICO," the poignant movie about how a poor boy's essential goodness banishes the cruelty and hardship around him, is the most nominated movie in the 27th Gawad Urian by the Manunuri ng Pelikulang Pilipino, the society of the country's most respected film critics.

"Magnifico" got 14 nominations. Aside from best picture and best director (Maryo J. de los Reyes), the movie got the lion's share in the acting categories, with child actor Jiro Manio leading the nominees of the ensemble cast that includes Gloria Romero, Lorna Tolentino, Celia Rodriguez, Isabella de Leon, Girlie Sevilla, Albert Martinez and Mark Gil. The movie was also nominated for screenplay, cinematography, production design, editing and sound.

"Crying Ladies," the comedy about hard-up women doing a commission to cry on cue in a traditional Chinese funeral, has 12 nominations. Aside from best picture, it is nominated for director, supporting actor (Eric Quizon and Julio Pacheco), supporting actress (Hilda Koronel and Sherry Lara), screenplay, cinematography, production design, editing, music and sound.

"Babae sa Breakwater," Mario O'Hara's striking urban tale about lower-depth characters around Manila Bay, has 11 nominations for best picture, director, actor (Kristtofer King), actress (Katherine Luna), supporting actor (Alcris Galura), screenplay, cinematography, production design, editing, music and sound.

Barometer of excellence

"Bridal Shower," the hit comedy about women and sexual mores and politics, also has 11 nominations for best picture, director (Jeffrey Jeturian), actress (Dina Bonnevie and Cherry Pie Picache), supporting actor (Alfred Vargas), screenplay, cinematography, production design, editing, music and sound.

The 2004 Gawad Urian, the most respected barometer of excellence in Philippine cinema, will be presented on June 19 at the AFP Theater.

The Manunuri is headed by Gigi Javier-Alfonso of the University of the Philippines Film Institute. Vice chair is Mario Hernando, editor of Sunday Malaya. Members are Dean Nicanor Tiongson of the UP College of Mass Communications, Ramon Magsaysay Award laureate Bienvenido Lumbera, Bro. Mike Rapatan of the De La Salle University Department of Communication, Rolando Tolentino of the UP-CMC, broadcast personality Butch Francisco and Lito Zulueta of the University of Santo Tomas Department of Journalism and Media Studies.

The complete list of nominees:

Best Film: "Babae sa Breakwater" (Entertainment Warehouse), "Bridal Shower" (Seiko Films), "Crying Ladies" (Unitel Pictures), and "Magnifico" (Violett Films)

Director: Jeffrey Jeturian ("Bridal"), Mark Meily ("Crying"), Mario O'Hara ("Breakwater), Jose Javier Reyes ("Malikmata"), and Maryo de los Reyes ("Magnifico")

Screenplay: Chris Martinez ("Bridal"), Mark Meily ("Crying"), Mario O'Hara ("Breakwater") and Mitchiko Yamamoto ("Magnifico")

Actor: Cogie Domingo ("Angel sa Lupa"), Kristoffer King ("Breakwater"), Jiro Manio ("Magnifico") and Aga Muhlach ("Kung Ako na Lang Sana")

Actress: Dina Bonnevie ("Bridal"), Katherine Luna ("Breakwater"), Ara Mina ("Huling Birhen sa Lupa"), Elizabeth Oropesa ("Homecoming"), Cherry Pie Picache ("Bridal") and Maricel Soriano ("Filipinas")

Supporting Actor: Alcris Galura ("Breakwater"), Mark Gil and Albert Martinez ("Magnifico"), Victor Neri ("Filipinas"), Julio Pacheco ("Crying Ladies"), Eric Quizon ("Crying"), Jericho Rosales ("Noon at Ngayon") and Alfred Vargas ("Bridal")

Supporting Actress: Mickey Ferriols ("Kung Ako na Lang Sana"), Hilda Koronel and Sherry Lara ("Crying"), Isabella de Leon, Celia Rodriguez, Gloria Romero, Girlie Sevilla and Lorna Tolentino ("Magnifico")

Cinematography: Odyssey Flores ("Magnifico"), Katrina Holgores and Nap Jamir ("Bridal"), Rey de Leon ("Breakwater"), Lee Meily ("Crying") and Regiben Romana and Lito Mempin ("Malikmata")

Editing: Danny Anonuevo ("Crying"), Vito Cajili ("Malikmata"), Manet Dayrit ("Magnifico"), Tara Illenberger ("Bridal") and Bert Vasadre ("Breakwater")

Production design: Raymond Bajarias ("Bridal"), Reji Regalado ("Crying"), Gerry Santos ("Magnifico") and Melody Teodoro ("Breakwater")

Music: Francis Guevarra and Ferdie Marquez ("Malikmata"), Vincent de Jesus ("Crying"), and Jesse Lucas ("Breakwater," "Bridal" and "Filipinas")

Sound: Albert Michael Idioma ("Malikmata"), Raffy Magsaysay ("Crying"), Ledoy Maralit ("Breakwater") and Arnold Reodica ("Bridal" and "Magnifico")

Hanoi concert to honor peace artists

HANOI—Lionel Richie, Gloria Gaynor and Hootie and the Blowfish are among the stars set to perform in Vietnam next month at a United Nations-backed concert to honor artists who have contributed to world peace.

The careers of Bob Dylan, Joan Baez and Country Joe McDonald, who were all prominent anti-war campaigners during America's ill-fated involvement in Indochina, will be formally recognized at the June 22 World Peace Music Awards.

Organizers said Country Joe would receive his award in person but they were still waiting to confirm the attendance of Dylan and Baez at the five-hour show at Hanoi's National Stadium.

Baez is synonymous with the civil rights and anti-war movements of the 1960s with her anthem "We Shall Overcome."

The late Vietnamese composer, Trinh Cong Son, whose peace song "Lullaby" was a hit in Asia in 1969, will also be honored. His sister Trinh Vinh will accept the award on his behalf.

American folk singers Peter, Paul and Mary, and Harry Belafonte, the New York City-born actor, author and singer, are the other recipients. Only the trio's Peter Yarrow will collect his award in person, according to show producer Matt Taylor said.

Among the musicians from 25 countries set to perform at the free concert are former Police guitarist Andy Summers, British soprano Sarah Brightman, Thai pop queen Tata Young, Taiwanese diva Ah Mei and Indonesian rockers Slank.

Hollywood action-hero Steven Seagal is also due to attend.

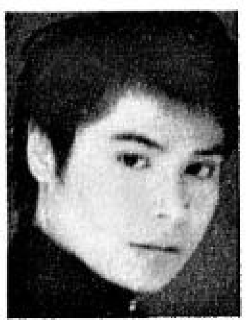
The concert, which will be opened with a message from UN Secretary General Kofi Annan, will be televised live around the world.

Parts of the proceeds from merchandise sales will be used to help victims of Agent Orange, the defoliant used by US forces during the Vietnam War.

The first World Peace Music Awards was held last year on the Indonesian resort island of Bali.

AFP

Cuneta show to raise funds for landslide victims


KING

A CONCERT featuring Nina, Jimmy Bondoc, Luke Mejares, King, Carla Martinez, Gino Padilla, Efrem Malaki, The Manoeuvres and Jamie Rivera will raise funds for the benefit of the landslide victims of Panaon Island, Southern Leyte, on Saturday, May 29, 7 p.m., at the Cuneta Astrodome in Pasay City.

The show, "Para Nila," will also have the special participation of the UP-CRL Chancel Choir and Emmanuel Handmime.

Produced by Vima Concerts, the show is presented by Gerry's Grill and iManila in cooperation with PLDT, City Grill, Mama Sita's, Gakken Phils., Unilever, Shakey's, The Manila Times, MSD, Strepsils, People's Tonight, Drysdale, La Pacita Biscuits, Winner Corned Beef, Zagu, MLM Foods, SM Supermarkets, Teazers, Big Mom's, De Leon Printing Press, Wave 89.1, Magic 89.9, 98.7 DZFE, and 702 DZAS.

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3 (DTS)	TROY
4 GOLD (DTS)	TROY
5 GOLD (DOLBY)	TROY
6 GOLD (SDDS)	JERSEY GIRL
7 GOLD (DOLBY)	VAN HELSING
8	I WILL SURVIVE
9	MAY WIFE IS A GANGSTER
10	STARSKY & HUTCH

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Masagana CINEMA (Pasay) tel 833.3290 833.3274

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M star www.clickthecity.com.ph (Las Pinas) tel 873.5004

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PREMIERE CINEMA (Makati City) tel 892.2503 THX

Centre Plaza Cinema (Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

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Gotesco Grand Central (Caloocan) tel 364.3781

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7 (DTS)	VAN HELSING
8	RESERVE
9	RESERVE

Gotesco Commonwealth tel 951.0083

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3 (DTS)	
4 (DOLBY)	
5	

Gotesco Ortigas tel 656.6795

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2	
3 (DTS)	
4	
5	

Universal (Manila) tel 733.2470

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Dilson (Manila) tel 734.7724

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3	TROY
4	RESERVE

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2	VAN HELSING
3	TROY
4	JERSEY GIRL
5	KIROT SA DIBDIB

Berma Cinema (Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029

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Ali MALL CINEPLEX 7 Tel No. 911-3101 Loc. 021-8342-8400

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5 (DTS)	DUDA
6	KIROT SA DIBDIB
7	JERSEY GIRL

Jade Cinema (Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1	SCHOOL OF ROCK
2	I WILL SURVIVE
3 (DTS ES)	TROY
4	THE CURSE

Cine Nepo (Angeles City) tel (045) 887.0121

1	I WILL SURVIVE
2	SCHOOL OF ROCK
3 (DOLBY)	TROY
4	TROY

Cine Nepo (Dagupan City) tel (075) 515.8489

1	I WILL SURVIVE
2	HELLBOY
3 (DOLBY)	HOSTILE INTENT
4	TROY

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall (Sta. Rosa, Laguna) tel (049) 837.0926

1	I WILL SURVIVE
2	HAUNTED SPIRIT
3 (DTS)	TROY

Cinema 2000 Waltermart (Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	I WILL SURVIVE
2 (DTS)	HAUNTED SPIRIT
3 (DOLBY)	SCHOOL OF ROCK
4	WHOLE 10 YARD

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall (Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146

1	I WILL SURVIVE
2	CONFESSION OF DRAMA QUEEN
3	TROY
4	HAUNTED SPIRIT

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix (Urdaneta) t (045) 9821727

1	PETER PAN
2	I WILL SURVIVE
3 (DOLBY)	HELLBOY

Cinema 2000 Metrotown (Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729

1	I WILL SURVIVE
2	PETER PAN
3 (DOLBY)	MAN OF FIRE
4 (DTS)	STARSKY & HUTCH

Cinema 2000 Waltermart (Plaridel) tel (044) 795-3320

1	TROY
2	I WILL SURVIVE
3	PAY CHECK

Lianas Cinema (Alabang) tel 850.1276

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2	CHECK INN
3	WHOLE 10 YARC
4 (DTS)	NAGHUHUMIYAW

Lianas MovieCity (Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)	HAUNTED SPIRIT
2	I WILL SURVIVE
3 (DTS)	TROY
4	BONE SNATCHERS
5	TWISTED

Olivarez Tri-Cinema (Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1	TROY
2	BATANG MAGDALENA

Olivarez Los Baños tel (049) 249.2558

1	TROY
2	TWISTED
3	HOUSE OF THE DEAD

Mega Center Mall (Cabanatuan City) tel (044) 463.3283

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2	STARSKY & HUTCH
3 (DTS)	TROY
4 (DOLBY)	I WILL SURVIVE

Cabuyao (Laguna City) tel 520.8914

1 (DTS)	RESERVE

Fiesta World Mall (Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1	HELLBOY
2	WHOLE 10 YARD
3	TROY
4	STARSKY & HUTCH

Emperor (Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1	CHECK -INN
2	TAKING LIVES

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NOW SHOWING

BAUTISTA

Christian enters Red Door

CHRISTIAN Bautista, singer and budding heartthrob, performs in a one-night-only acoustic show at Red Door on Tuesday, May 18, 8 p.m., as part of Red Door's mini concert series.

The series aims to promote both established acts as well as young artists like you've never seen or heard them before.

Christian first shot to fame as a runner-up in "Star in a Million," which also landed him a record contract with Warner Music Philippines. His first single, "The Way You Look at Me," made music critics and fans alike compare him to such big artists as Josh Groban.

Red Doors' mini concert series is a weekly event that plays all year long. Tickets are P200 and are available at the door or pre-sold through Red Door.

For more details, call 747-1911 or check out the latest in acoustic acts, sumptuous dishes and sublime drinks at Red Door, 173 Pasig Blvd., after Ultra, just off Shaw Boulevard.

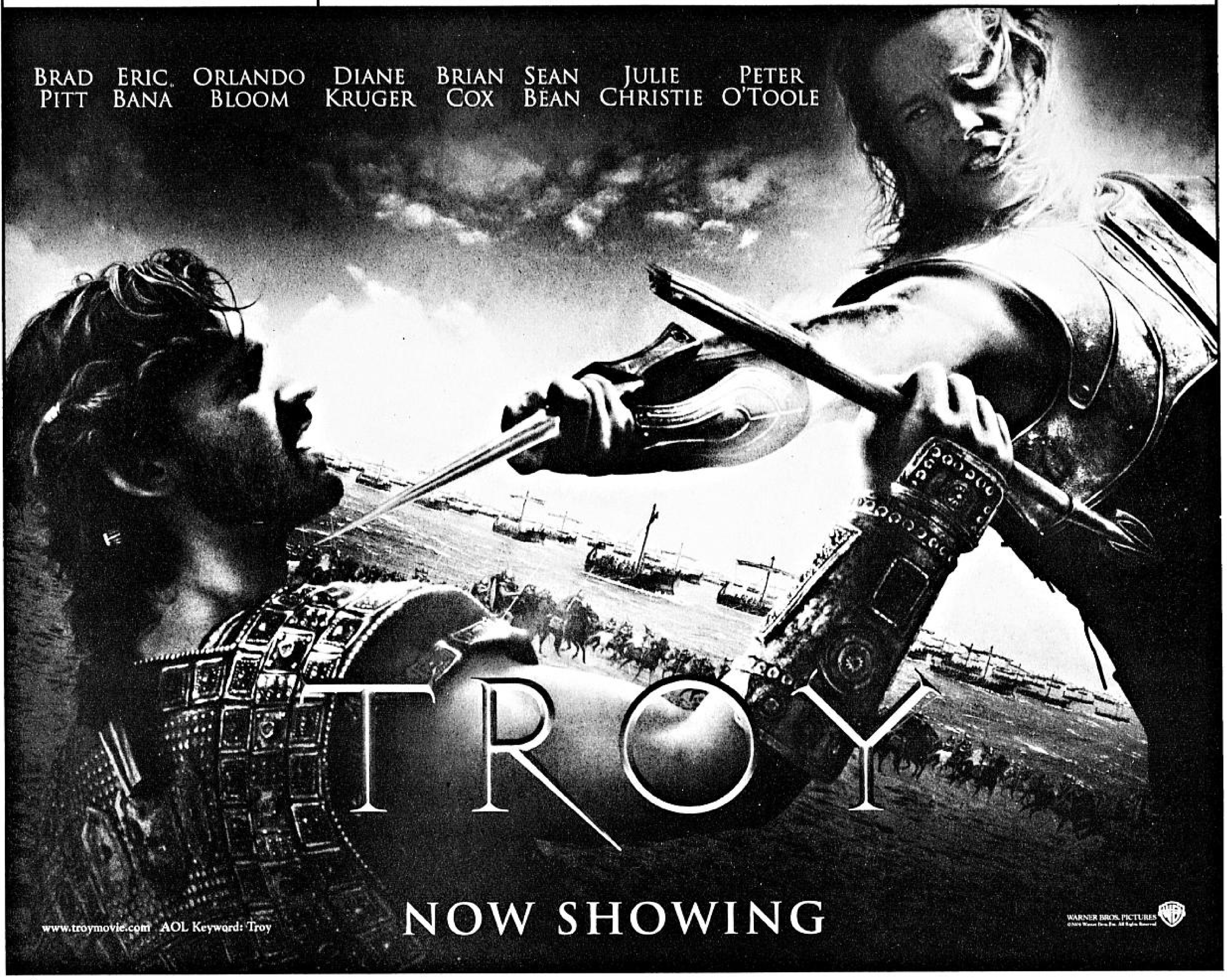
Merry May at Westin

THIS May at the Siete Pecados of the Westin Philippine Plaza, dance to the beat of Arpie & the Multivitamins on Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays, with Etcetera also on Saturdays.

Tuesdays have the 747 Band on May 18 and Millennium on May 25. Thursdays have Etcetera and 747 Band on May 20 and Velocity and 747 Band on May 27. Fridays feature Hyperbeat and the Family Cruz Band.

Show starts at 8 p.m., with a minimum consumable charge of P250 from Monday to Thursday, and P500 on Friday and Saturday. For inquiries, call the Westin, 551-5555, extension 1231, 1232 or 5000.

MTRCB RATING ▸ PG-13 | Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult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Editor **Chelo Banal-Formoso**

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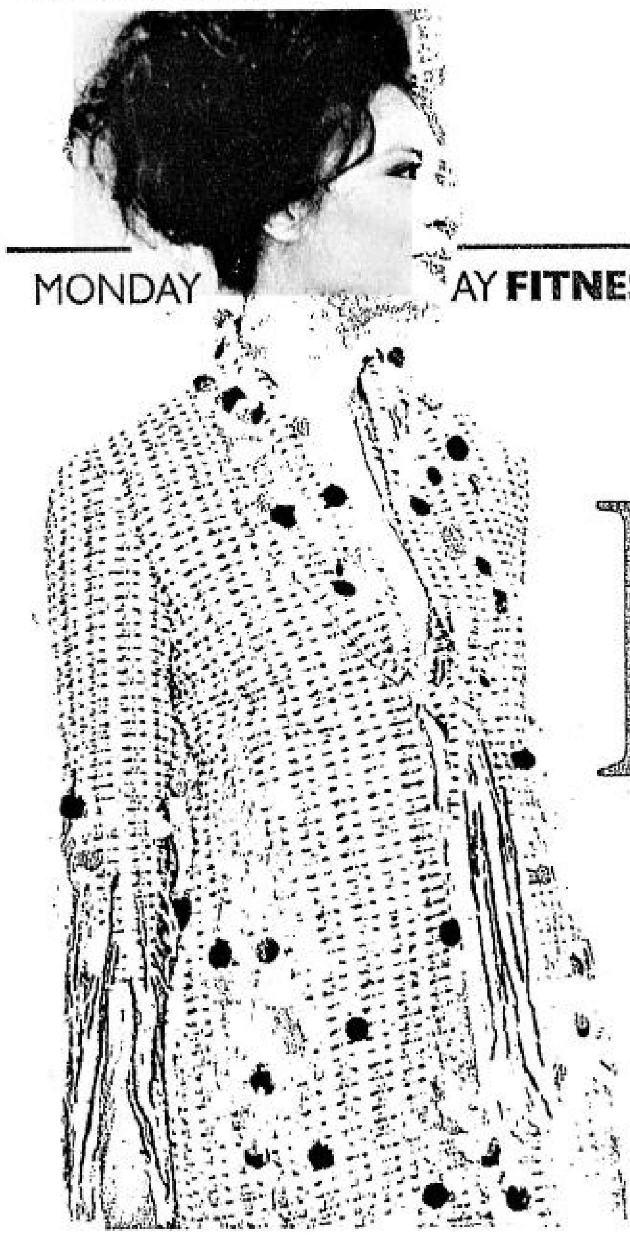


So very Inno Sotto

Masterful and graceful use of details separates the Pond's-inspired fashion gala from other shows

THE DESIGNER with new Pond's whitening skin system image model Amanda Griffin

By Chelo Banal-Formoso

WHEN Inno Sotto presents a collection, fashionistas sit up and drool and make a beeline backstage to where the clothes are so they can rave some more. This, no matter if it's a salon-style showing of 25 dresses and gowns—as in the recent Pond's Evening of White Beauty, a Unilever event held at the Conservatory of the Peninsula Manila. That's what they've been doing post-show all these years and what they're likely to do, too, in October when Sotto unveils his 65-piece gala collection at the new Ayala Museum.

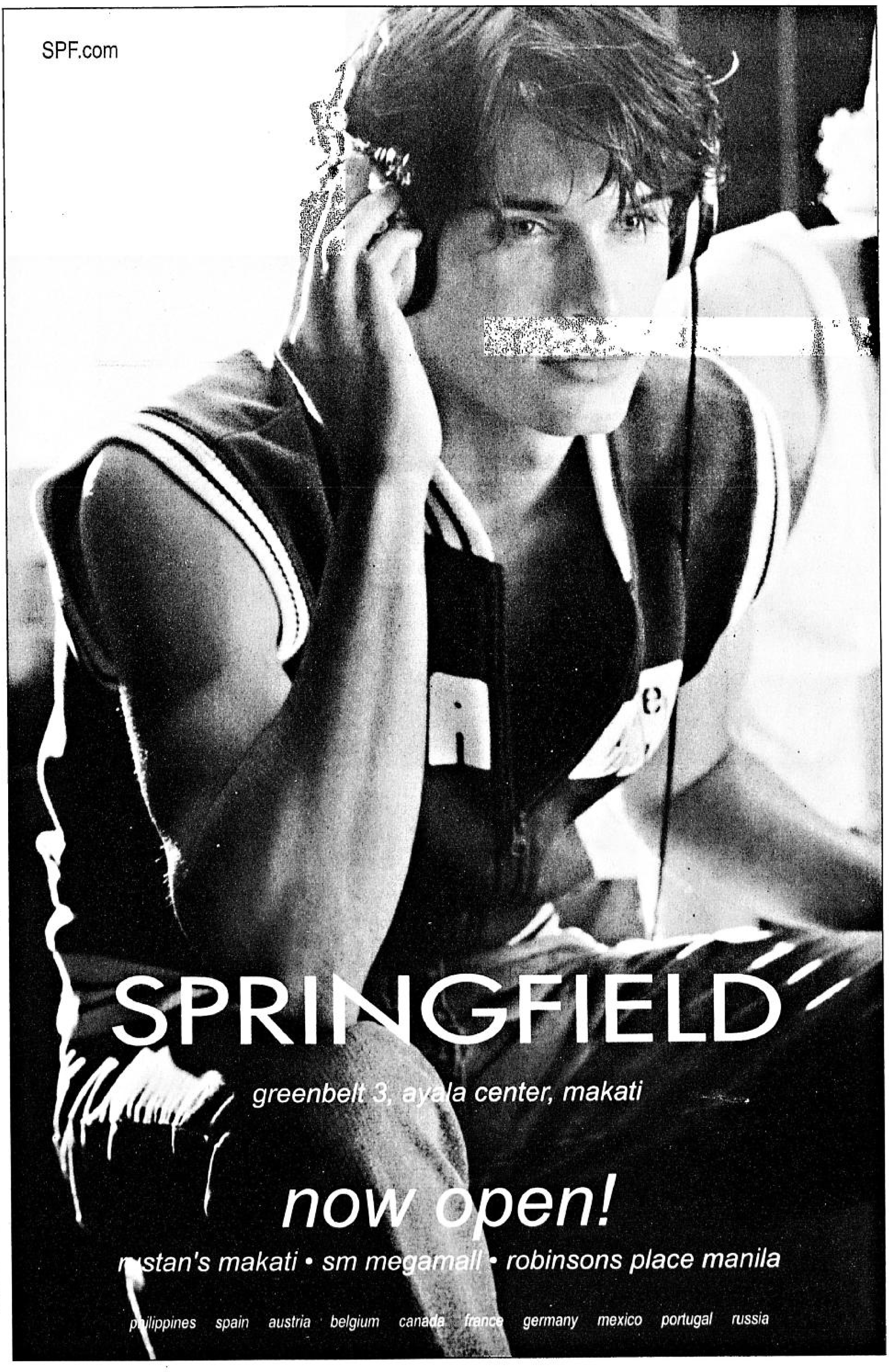
The designer himself looked dazed by the reaction to his work. "You never know how your clothes would register on people," he said after the Pond's show that he put together on rather short notice (as in 10 days). Despite his 25 years in the couture business, he still gets butterflies in his stomach before a show. As a matter of fact, he added, he went to hear Mass just before this one.

Sotto is not just trying to be modest. God knows he doesn't bother to be anything he isn't just to please people, least of all the media. Fortunately for him, he has the savvy to turn down media heat on him by simply showing on the catwalk his mostly devastatingly beautiful notions of fashion.

"I have a tendency to push myself a little more, to not to get complacent," he said. And absolutely unflappable he could not be that evening because in the audience were young

SO VERY/ D4

WHITE satin gown with silk organza ruffles and floral accent over one shoulder, and a train to boot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Rose-colored future for eyewear line

PHOEMELA Baranda, here with Pascual and Rosales, proves that with the right eyewear, women can transform themselves from shy and sweet ingenues to sophisticated, foxy babes.

PHOTOS: JOHNNY VILLENA

By Belle V. Bondoc

THEY don't need further introduction. Their faces are all over town—along Edsa, in MRT/LRT stations, shopping malls and God knows where.

Billboards show Piolo Pascual with a pensive "try me" look endorsing "crispy chicken," Jericho Rosales flashing his endearing smile to win over cellular phone users, and Phoemela Barranda's youthful and spotless fair skin to "sell" a beauty product.

But there is more to these three popular image models than drop-dead gorgeous looks.

One of the most sought-after leading men, Pascual nurtures a steadily rising career as an actor—commercial model, and now a recording artist.

Rosales is currently a contract star of the ABS-CBN Talent Center and is one of The Hunks. He is seen regularly in the soap "Sana'y Wala nang Wakas" and "ASAP Mania" on television.

Barranda, the statuesque model-turned-TV host, is more visible these days as one of the hosts of GMA 7's "Extra Challenge." She made a name for herself as one of the country's top commercial models.

Despite the media attention, the three are extremely professional and hardworking. They have a lot of attitude, but of the right kind, making them suitable role models for other young adults. This is one of the reasons why i2i New York, makers of affordable eyewear, chose them for their latest advertising campaign.

"We've got endorsers close to people's hearts," says Ricco Ocampo, president of the Astoria Group of Companies, the local distributor of i2i. "They are popular but we chose them not because of their fame but for being role models for the young generation."

As i2i puts it, they have found "the right faces to (go with) those eyes."

HUNKS Jericho Rosales and Piolo Pascual wear the latest from i2i.

Competition heats up

When i2i was introduced in the Philippines in 1997, the eyewear was marketed mainly through word of mouth. It was only in 2002, when the market of i2i became more diversified, that Ocampo and his wife, the former Tina Maristela, realized the importance of getting celebrity endorsers who would be identified with their products.

For i2i, the image models represent today's generation and its active lifestyle. But certain qualities of the models also speak of the brand's styles.

Rosales has been with i2i since 2002. Pascual and Barranda, whose sleek features, Ocampo thought, perfectly complemented the two men's wholesome good looks, came aboard this year.

Ocampo says he personally admires the young adults for their aggressiveness when it comes to their respective careers and their professionalism in dealing with people.

For his part, Pascual says, "It wasn't hard to say yes" despite his hectic schedule. "In fact I was just waiting for them to get me."

More than being an affordable brand (a pair sells for as low as P129), i2i New York is also a performance brand with hundreds of different styles to choose from. An average of 10 new styles are produced every month.

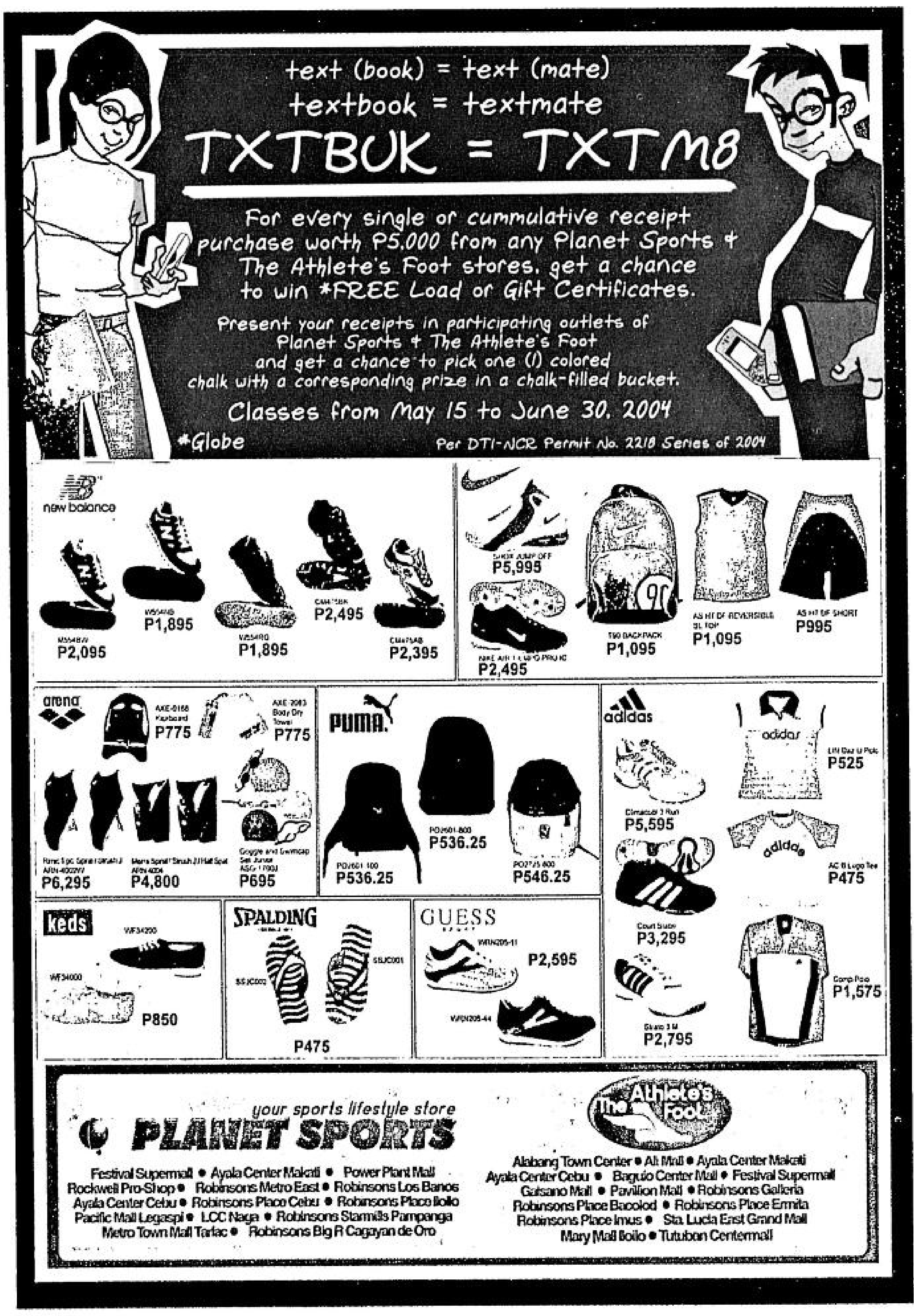
The eyewear's frames have the versatility to allow lenses to be swapped for prescription or graded lenses. Sunglasses are packaged in a unique twist-lock canister, each pair providing protection against the sun's harmful ultra-violet rays.

Today, i2i has already almost 200 outlets nationwide, with about a hundred standalone kiosks, mostly located in major shopping malls in Metro Manila.

Now, with these gorgeous image models, i2i's future looks even rosier and further expansion may be expected.

E-mail the author at bbondoc@inquirer.com.ph

> Three high-profile endorsers put i2i ahead of the competition



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MELISSA Cherish Stamey

KRISTEL Marisse Tingzon

Search for mall image model

ROBINSONS Malls recently selected the 12 Ms Robinsons finalists who will be competing for the title of Ms Robinsons on May 29 at the Galleria Trade Hall, 4/L Robinsons Galleria.

The competition, which was launched last month, attracted over 150 young women aged 16-21 years old.

The new batch of Ms Robinsons finalists are Veronica Christiane Marie Ventosa, 16, from Pasig City; Katrina Grace Rigets, 19, from Quezon City; Anna Katherine Bautista, 21, from Malate, Manila; Vanessa Anne Kibanoff, 21, from Arayat, Pampanga; Melissa Cherish Stamey, 16, from Sta. Maria, Bulacan; Kristel Marisse Tingzon, 19, from Sampaloc, Manila; Finky Carandang, 21, from Rosario, Batangas; Samantha Gayle Santos, 18, from Cainta, Rizal; Maribel Villadiego, 21, from Binangonan, Rizal; Nhessica Weber, 16, from Dasmariñas, Cavite and Gianne Paola Policar, 17, from San Pedro, Laguna.

The selection of these 12 finalists was based on their overall appearance, poise, talent and personality.

GIANNE Paola Policar

KATRINA Grace Rigets

Award for new boutique

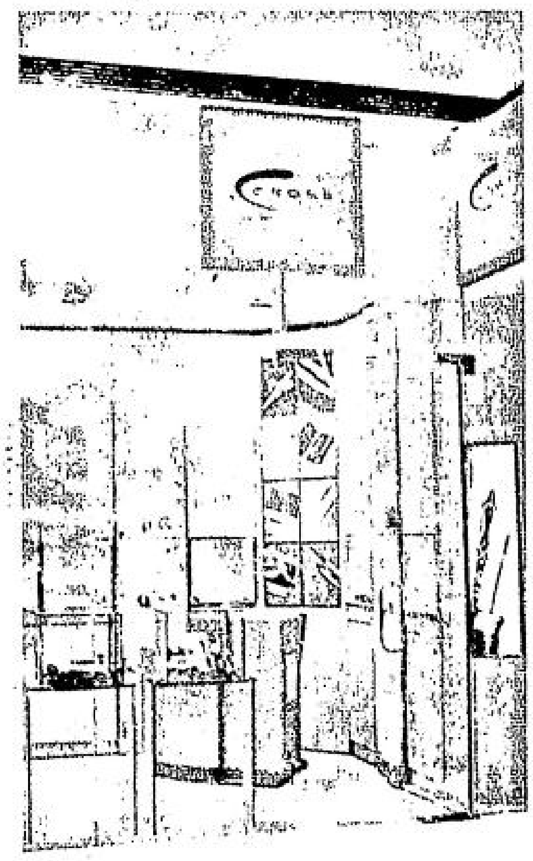
THE CROSS Boutique at The Podium through Newtrends Philippines, received recently the 2003 Asia Market of the Year award, besting other Asian countries like Japan, Korea, Taiwan and Thailand.

An executive of A.T. Cross International said the honor reinforced the company's image as a lifestyle brand.

The Cross Boutique at The Podium opened in December and is designed to be a one-stop shop for Cross products. It carries a complete range of pens, watches and accessories.

The boutique is a smaller version of the Tai Koo Shing Boutique in Hong Kong.

Cross pens and accessories are exclusively distributed by Newtrends International, Makati City.



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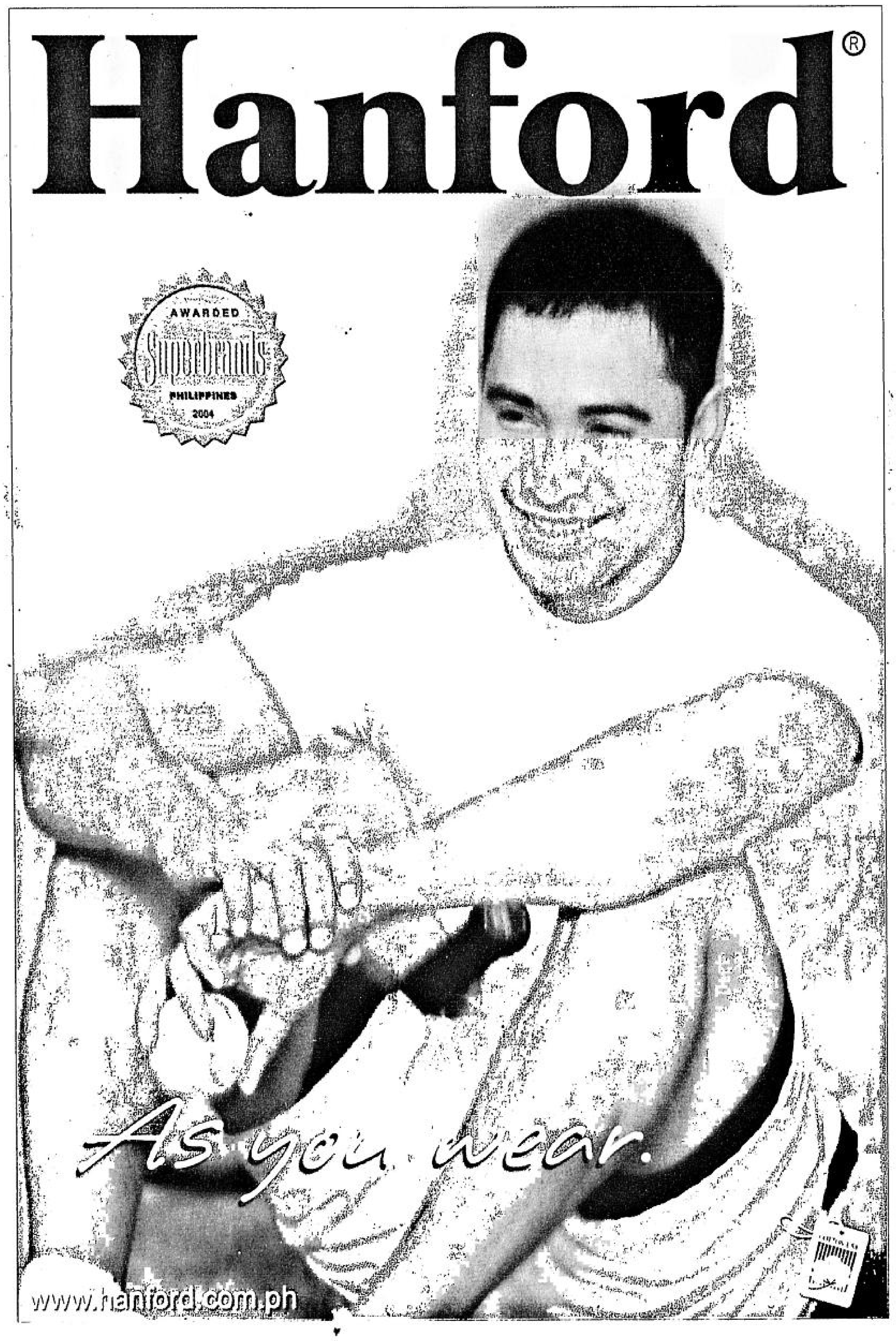
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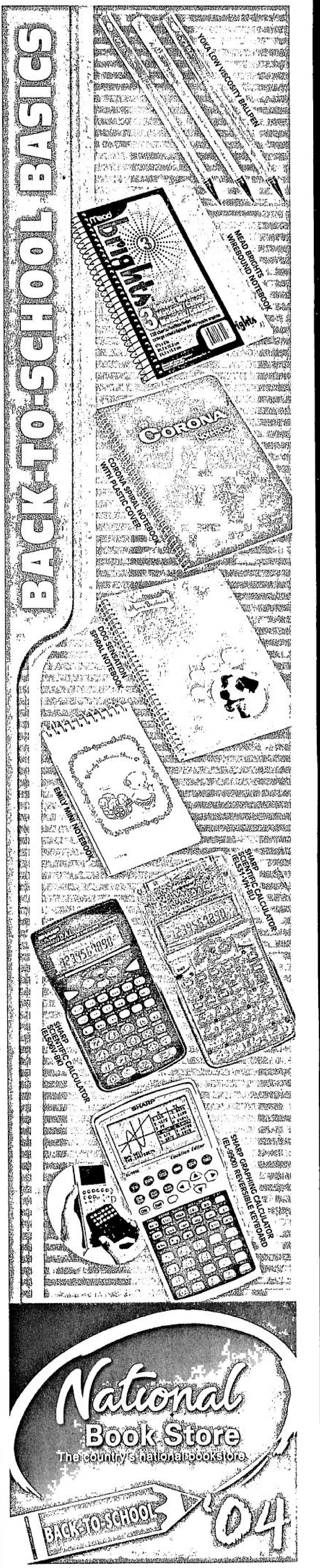
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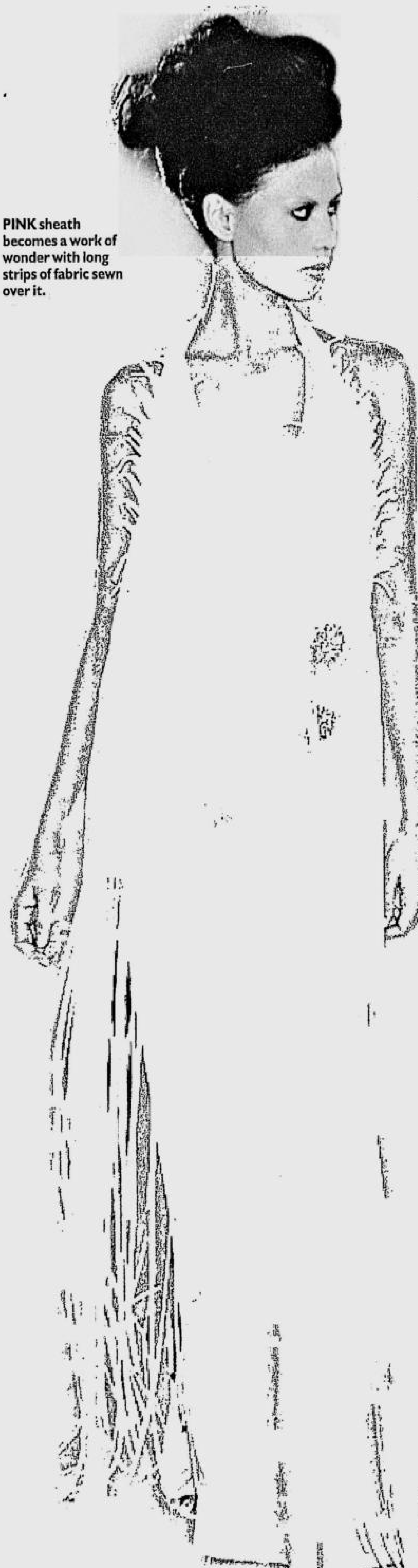
> "Inno's collection is consistently very Inno: youthful, luxe-dressing, modern, clean-cut, graphically photogenic and always feminine. Bravo!"
>
> —LULU TG GUETA

GLAMOROUS cocktail dresses...

...and gowns of pink, vanilla and white in Sotto's tribute to the women of Pond's

So very Inno Sotto

> "Inno's clothes are for wearing when you w to be noticed—good fabric, simple lines, sophisticated. It's in the details... I've been of Inno since I first watched his 'India Sari' s at Hyatt. I look forward to his shows... He is new breed of designer for Philippine coutur
>
> —TONICHI NOC



PINK sheath becomes a work of wonder with long strips of fabric sewn over it.

From page D1

young designers who were all waiting to be inspired by the master designer.

As in his more recent shows, Inno showed a compulsion for color blocking. His focus was on white, this show having been commissioned for Pond's skin whitening system, but to his credit, he concocted gowns in delicious strawberry and vanilla to keep the show from turning into a full bridal fair.

The opener was a pink tunic of duchess satin, chic enough to move its wearer from cocktails on to a formal dinner. Although it looked positively chaste, it engaged the eye with the fabric noodles tied around the model's neck and slung back. Hmm, satin cording instead of layers of pearls. What a shot of pleasure! Imagine women not having t ry about jewelry.

Suite of tweeds

Sotto, who introduced frayed sui dresses with matching shawls in his successful 1998 show, revived his verve for this collection to stunning r

> "It was so Inno. The way he manipulated the fabrics was fantastic. He used frayed fabrics, cords, and layers and layers of organza. *Ang ganda*, very cohesive. My favorite was the strapless gown with wide ruffles at the hem."
>
> —JOJIE LLOREN

> "I liked everything, from the tweeds to the bridal. What else can I say? I've always admired Inno's work."
>
> —PATRICE RAMOS-DIAZ

SOTTO turns tweed, interspersed skeins of pink and white loosely-woven linen, into provocative a dressy attires with fraying and mother-of-pearl discs.

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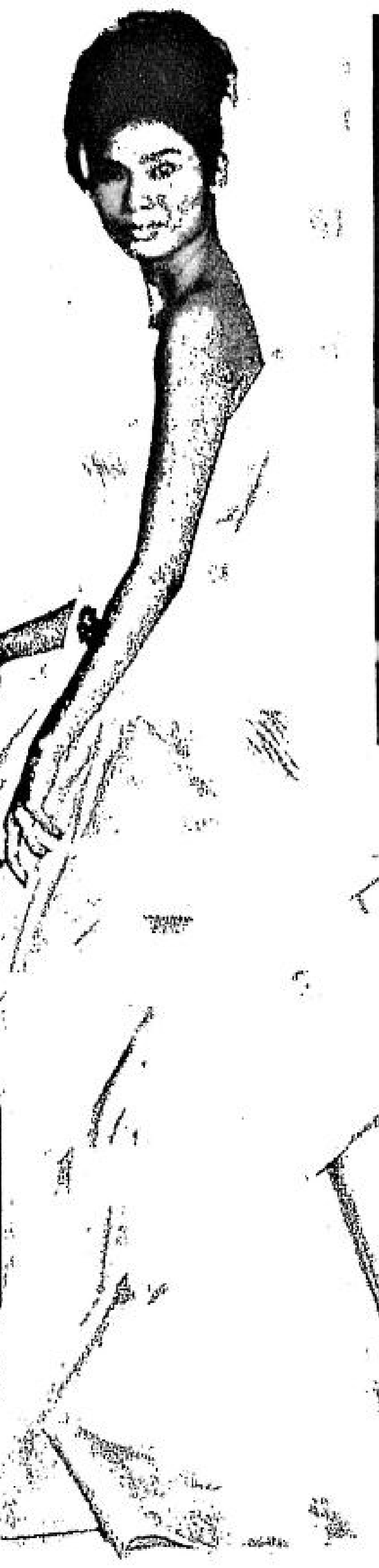

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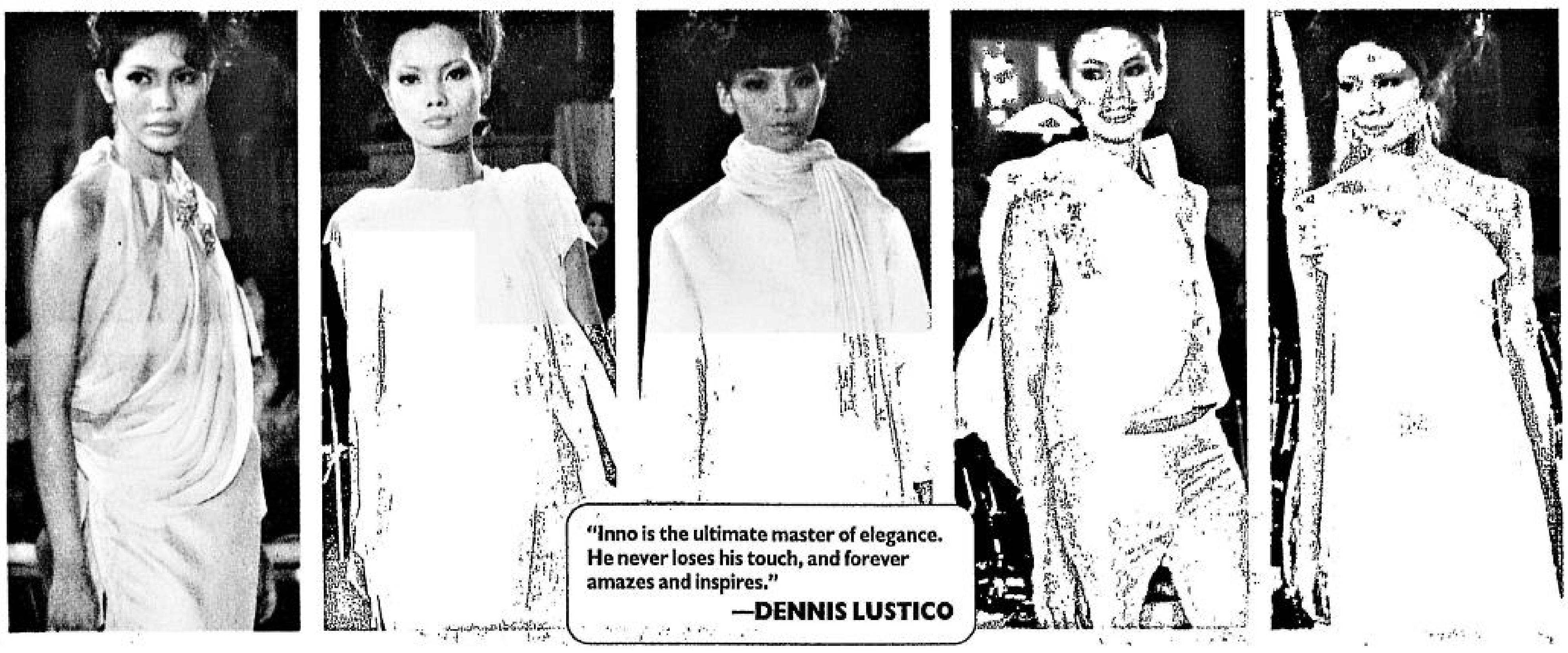
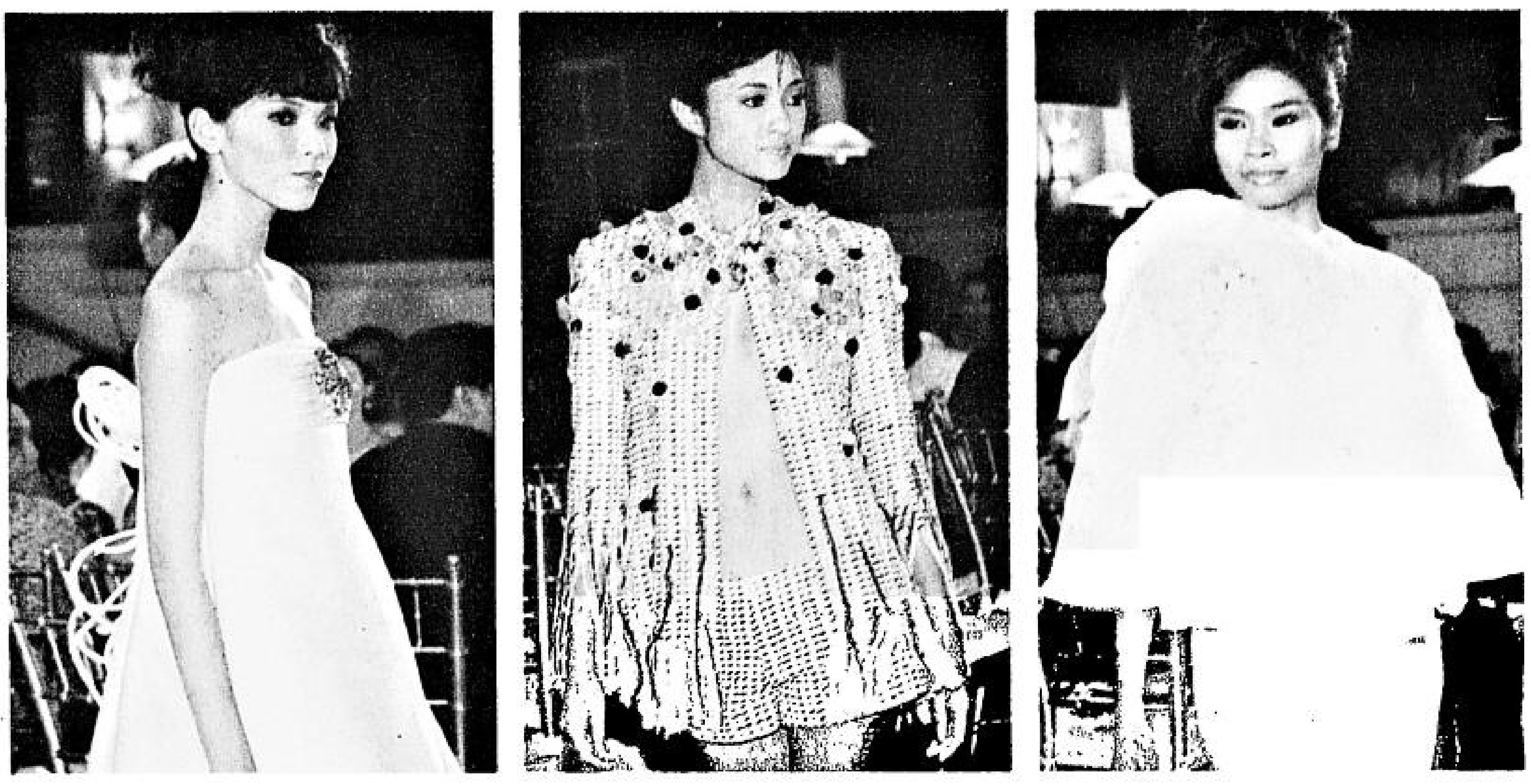


"Inno is the ultimate master of elegance. He never loses his touch, and forever amazes and inspires."
—DENNIS LUSTICO

SOTTO DETAILS... Draping, layering, strips cut on the bias and rolled into cords, shawl collars, brooches where no mere mortal would stick them, fraying, etc.



"Exquisite! Especially the wedding gowns at the end."
—RHETT EALA

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This time, fringes were seen on the sleeves, collars and hems. The tweed suite was composed of cocktail dresses, tunics paired with shorts, blousons matched with white skirts—all made of Indian linen that looked neither Indian nor linen owing to Sotto's deft use of material. Wisps of black peeped through interspersed skeins of pink and white yarns. By pulling out threads, Sotto came up with a more flexible material and achieved a loose, basket-weave look, like a lighter, more glamorous version of abel Iloco. Tiny pompoms, pailettes and mother of pearl discs gave the tweed fabric a playful treatment. The crowd loved this portion.

Sotto presented 13 gowns made of chiffon, organza or heavy silk, one for each of his models. The impeccable construction could only mean one thing: He shaped and cut the fabric while draped on the model's body.

Hems with attitude

The designer gave his gowns hems to remember. A couple had bouffant skirts that required Attitude to carry, or walk in. The jaw-dropping gown in vanilla with flap top and huge folds ate up 16 yards of Mikado silk, according to Sotto. Another strapless off-white gown had wide ruffles at the hem.

Sometimes the details were in the bodice, piles of cording tied into a ribbon in the back, brooch accents, his signature "lettuce finish," layers leaf cutouts, ruffles, soft draping around the shoulders, a sheath layered horizontally with strips of fabric that looked like they came out of the office paper shredder (how did he do that?).

Of course, the specific virtuosity of Sotto lies in his inventiveness. Each collection is themed around a fetishistic element or touch of whimsy, as in fringes, geometrics, brooches, etc., but always with elegance. When Inno Sotto groups four brooches together or piles cloth noodles on the collar, molecules rearrange themselves and a dress becomes monumentally desirable.

Another endearing thing about Sotto is that he will not cheat himself or his audience with a collection that is not true to himself. Sotto has always been more cosmopolitan than his peers. Even when besieged by his A-list clients for ternos to wear to last year's Terno Ball, he didn't fake Filipiniana, and went without qualms for European touches. For the Pond's collection, Sotto infused sophistication with grace. More notably, he managed, despite all the distractions of fraying, shredding, draping and ballooning, to come up with very clean, very polished tailoring.

All in all, it was a show that invoked glamour with confidence and sobriety, a compelling teaser for Inno Sotto's big show come October. Nothing as suave and sure-footed a show could be so without a director and a producer, in this case, Robbie Carmona and Richard Tann, respectively. Robert Blancaflor deserves kudos for the fabulous arrangements of tulips. The ever-loyal Patrick Rosas and his team worked on the models' hair and Chanel makeup. There is, after all, no substitute for good teamwork.

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7th	8	7
9th	8	9
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14th	15	14
16th	15	16
20th	21	18
21st	22	21
24th	25	24
27th	28	25
28th of the month	May 29	June 28, 2004

Surprise No. 2

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Revlon cosmetics

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TAKING their well-deserved bows! Maria Luigia Borsi and Andrea Bocelli with the woman behind the successful concert, Baby Arenas, and conductor Marcello Rota

FASHIONABLE personalities. Beaver Lopez and wife Jackie Ejercito with Baby Arenas and Sen. Loi Estrada

COSMO Manille's patroness of arts and culture Nedy Tantoco with Bocelli

OPERA buffs. INQUIRER chair Marixi Prieto and Mila Drilon

One moment of glorious, absolute harmony

THE GREAT tenor with Consul Fortune Aleta-Ledesma of Monaco; Agnes Huibonhoa; Clara Colesanti, wife of the Italian Ambassador; and Françoise Vergeon, wife of Air France's GM

SPEAKER Joe de Venecia and wife Gina Vera Perez did not to miss this happening.

TERESITA Liboro

HEADING the cast at Lufthansa German Airlines' inauguration of its new office are European Union Head of Delegation Ambassador Jan de Kok, Lufthansa Airlines' general manager Dietmar Kramer and account manager for corporate sales Minette Corpus, and German Ambassador to the Philippines Herbert Jess.

JET-SETTERS. "Probe's" Cheche Lazaro, Singapore Airlines marketing manager Rita Dy, Lufthansa's former sales and marketing manager Jeanette See, Singapore Airlines Cargo general manager Eugene Chew, Lufthansa's Evelyn Muniosguren

DIPLOMATIC SET. German embassy's Juergen Hartung, Elke Conrad and Marion Markl, Belgian Embassy's Vincent Butaye, European Union's Antonella Culasso, Swiss Embassy's Susanne Wiltschel, German embassy's Marianne Hartung and Anja Hartung

THE TRAVELING pack. Dolly Fortun of Fiesta Tours, Caroline Maala of Pan Pacific Travels, Mila Suarez of Classic Travel, Shirley Uy of Southeast Asia Travel, Gerry de Guzman of American Express Adventure Travel, Minda Santiago and Vicky Gonzalez of Aviatica Travel, and Franck Khouri of Premiere Travel

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH

Maurice Arcache

Photos by **Alex Van Hagen** on **Kodak Max**

THE FANTASTIC, one-of-a-kind "Andrea Bocelli Live in Manila" concert was definitely the cultural event of the year, *palanggas*. It brought together our country's hotshots from all sectors of society, regardless of political persuasion, economic class, gender, age, religion and taste.

For this, mega philanthropist, alabaster beauty **Rose Marie "Baby" Arenas** should be credited that our country of serious disunity and diversity, experienced a moment of absolute, glorious harmony.

After almost four years of assiduous work and, needless to say, *apres* of blood and sweat, Baby Arenas' charm overcame the reservations of the management of the world-famous tenor, Maestro **Andrea Bocelli**, and convinced him to launch his first Asian tour in Cosmo Manille.

Needless to say, Bocelli and his entourage were floored by the warmth and hospitality of the Filipino people, courtesy of Baby Arenas, who not only billeted them in one of the most prestigious and secure hotels, the Mandarin Oriental, but also treated them to a weekend of super fun in her private beach resort, where she had the Mandarin cater the sumptuous lunch.

Looking completely relaxed and happy, Andrea B. rushed into the water and swam for hours to make sure he got a good tan.

At lunch time, he enjoyed most the beef *sinigang* and salted eggs.

On the eve of his departure, Andrea was overheard saying to his group, "Why do we have to leave Manila so soon, when I'm enjoying it so much?"

"As I said before, good things in life should be shared and one of them is good music," said Baby, patron of the arts, who put her heart and soul in mounting this show of such magnitude.

She also brought together the best and the brightest of our talents for the all-Filipino symphony orchestra that received lavish praises from world-renowned conductor Maestro **Marcello Rota**. He was so impressed, the orchestra will accompany Bocelli for the rest of his Asian tour in Hong Kong and Singapore.

The entourage of Maestro Bocelli said our town went far beyond their expectations. The tenor said in an exclusive interview, "Everyone knows I do not like to fly very much to distant places. If the Philippines were closer to Italy, I would be in the Philippines every day."

During the fabulous concert at the Araneta Coliseum, he said, "I saw the smiling faces of the Filipino people."

Baby simply shrugged off early comments that the show could not be done well. She plunged straight into production preparations because the words "never" and "cannot be" simply did not exist in her vocabulary. And she did it, dahlings.

Other hotshots who helped co-produce this fab happening with ABS-CBN were sponsors like the elegant Mandarin Hotel, Araneta Coliseum, Globe Telecom, Unilab, Nestlé, Segafredo, Stores Specialists Inc., Jaguar, Ralph's Wines and Spirits, and St. Luke's Medical Center's Voice Center.

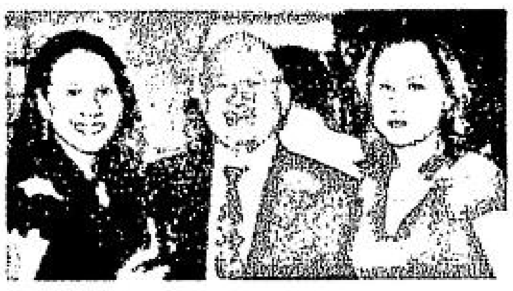
Thank you all for a fabulous memory not to be forgotten.

Airlines' swanky new place

That super efficient air carrier, Lufthansa German Airlines, had a cast of 100 at the super fun inauguration of its posh, eye-catching new office at the cool Rockwell Center in Makati.

NO candles, please. All set to slice her cake is our gal of the hour, Vivian Yuchengco, with her daughter Margarita Locsin.

MANDARIN Oriental Hotel's general manager Helmut Gaesberger, Rachel Arenas (in town from her studies at Harvard), Nene Araneta, Baby Arenas, international socialite Baby Fores and mega jeweler Benjie Yap



AMANDA Huibonhoa Sandoval with Consul Rene Ledesma of Bulgaria and Heloise Huibonhoa Romualdez

POPULAR Quezon City Mayor Sonny Belmonte

BENPRES top honcho Oscar M. Lopez

MEGA TV personality Korina Sanchez with her steadier-than-steady escort, Mar Roxas, behind her

Snipping the yellow ribbon were heavyweight hotshots, led by European Union head of delegation, Ambassador **Jan de Kok**; Lufthansa Airlines' popular general manager, **Dietmar Kramer**, and account manager for corporate sales, cyber smart **Minette Corpus**; and well-respected German ambassador to the Philippines, **Herbert Jess**, *palanggas*.

The chic new "home" is at the impressive Phinma Plaza.

"In keeping with the Lufthansa tradition of being ahead of the market's needs and on the technological forefront, the new office is equipped with state-of-the-art, Wi-Fi technology, which enables our clients to enjoy the benefits of Internet wireless," said the proud, brilliant Southern lady **Jo Lucero Portugal**, the airlines' deputy country manager.

Naturellement, we must not forget one of the women who helped in promoting the airlines, former Lufthansa sales and marketing manager, our *palangga* **Jeanette See**, who has zoomed up the corporate ladder and is now with the airline's Singapore office, handling marketing for Singapore, Australia, New Zealand, Malaysia and Indonesia.

Stepping into Jeanette's shoes are super smart gals—young, pretty industry movers and shakers: **Jojo Santos**, who is now Lufthansa sales manager; and **Minette Tirona-Corpus**, now Lufthansa marketing manager!

Brand-new office with new achievers for a bonus? That's German efficiency for you, *palanggas*.

Fresh brew

Hotshot stock-market whiz, brilliant businesswoman and vivacious **Vivian Yuchengco** celebrated her big day at the swinging Dusit Hotel Nikko's popular Fiesta San Miguel, *palanggas*.

Breezing in were Vivian's more fashionable pals and a cluster of relatives. After finishing their cocktails, they enjoyed the sumptuous buffet of excellently prepared Filipino dishes, drowning them with freshly brewed and cold San Miguel beer. **Yosi Tangco** (STI owner) and his group entertained the chi-chi crowd with their snazzy sounds.

HOTSHOT beer drinkers and business magnates Philip Tuason, Buddy Roas, Jeslie Lapuz and Greggy Araneta

LORENZO Tan of PNB with Roberto Ongpin

Since its opening, Fiesta San Miguel has become the place to chill out and party, as it is the first and only restaurant and bar in a hotel to offer freshly brewed San Miguel beer.

The invitees definitely had a blast as they enjoyed the performance of some of the country's top bands in the bar at the mezzanine level of the restaurant.

One of the society gals present was telling *moi* about one of the ladies present who was well-known "for her big golden heart, and a stomach to match" and, in the same breath, telling me without batting an eyelash about one of Manille's young super high-profile gals, "You know, Maurice, she really gives her heart to the man she loves at the moment, but the rest of her goes to the other guys."

Before she could crucify more of my pals, I moved away faster than she could say, "Where are you going?"

CHARO Yujuico, Liz Lirag, Anup Daryani, Neil Yujuico, Baby Fernando and Cora Dee Corpuz

SOCIALITES Josie Lichauco, Lucille Villanueva, Baby Araneta, Paz Yuchengco, Menchu Katigbak and Madeleine Lim, all friends of birthday girl Vivian Yuchengco

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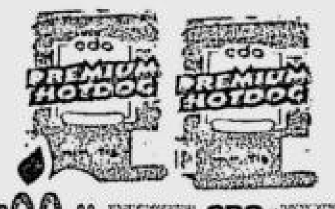
P49.00/pack **CDO** Premium Hotdog (Regular) 490g

P34.75/pack **GARDENIA** Classic/ Thick Slice 600g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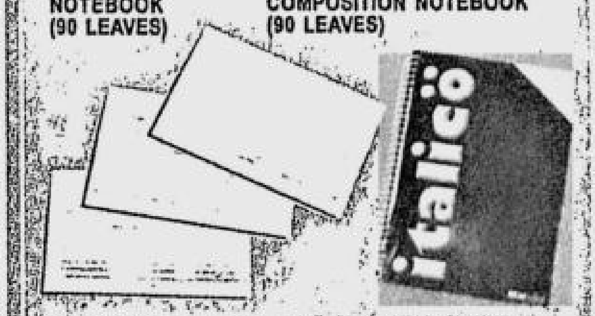
P14.50 STAR QUIZ PAD (1/2 CROSSWISE)

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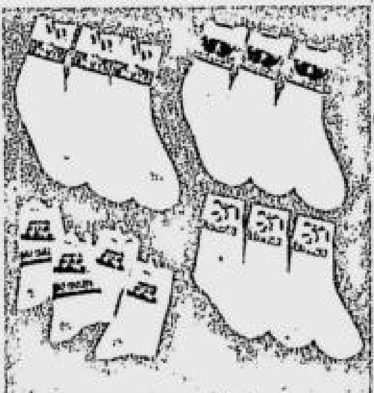
P109.75-P149.75 GIRLS' BLOUSE (SAILOR COLLAR)

P239.75-P279.75 BOYS' PANTS

P139.75-P159.75 BOYS' SHORTS

P149.75-P179.75 GIRLS' SKIRT


P60.00 GIRLS' SOCKS (3 PAIRS)

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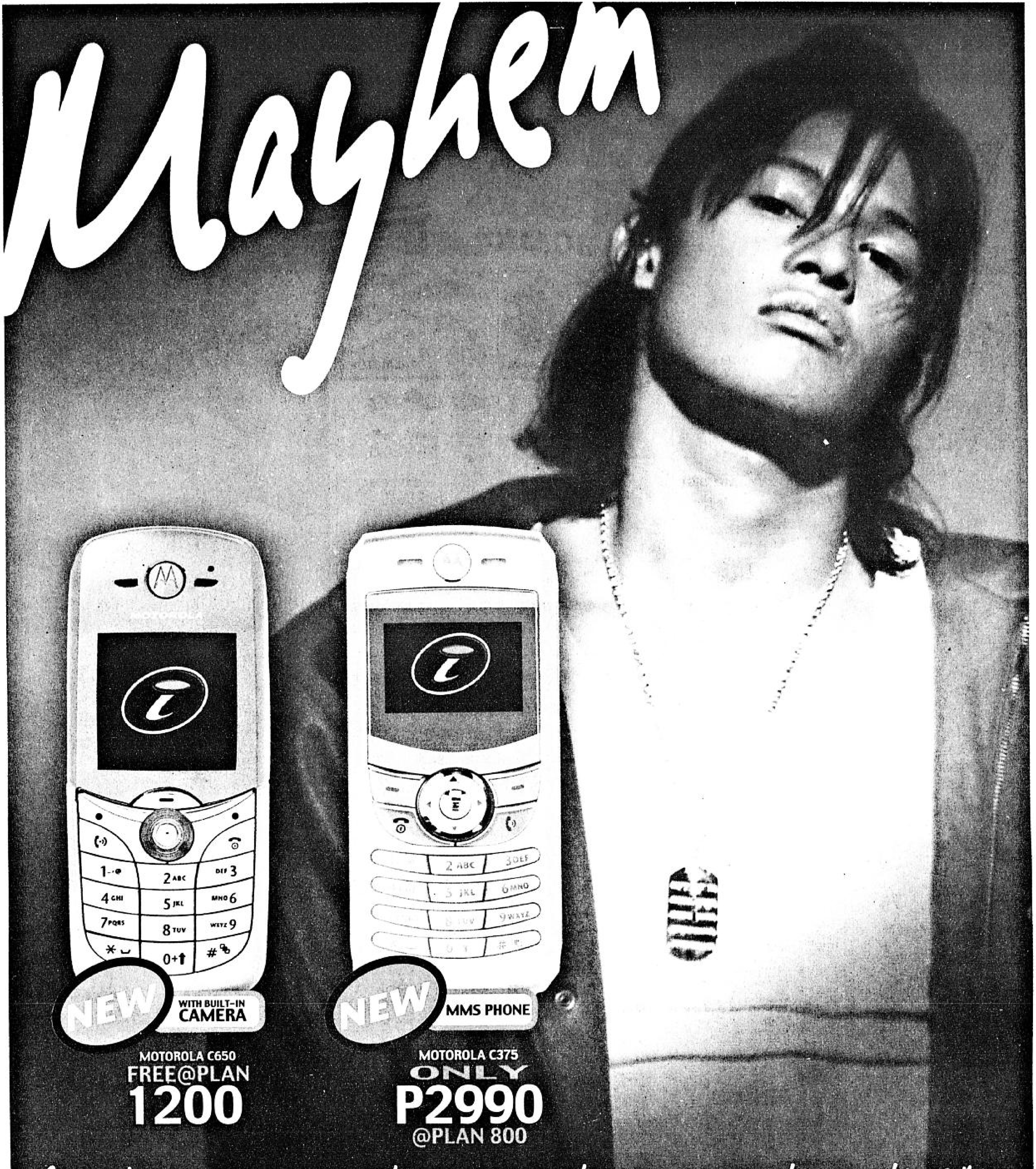

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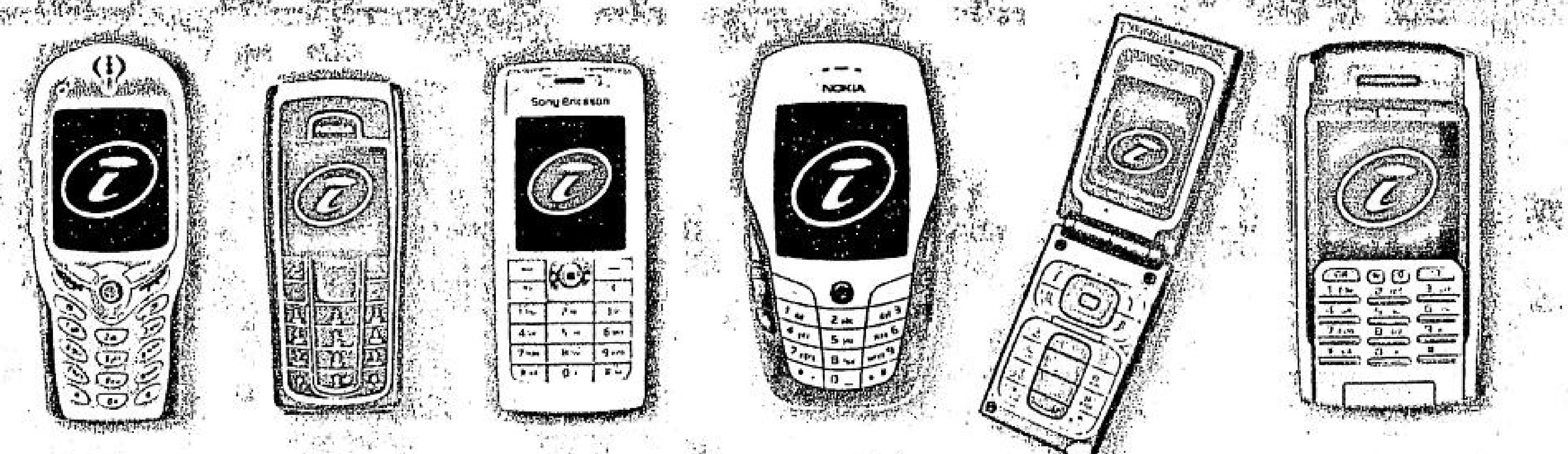

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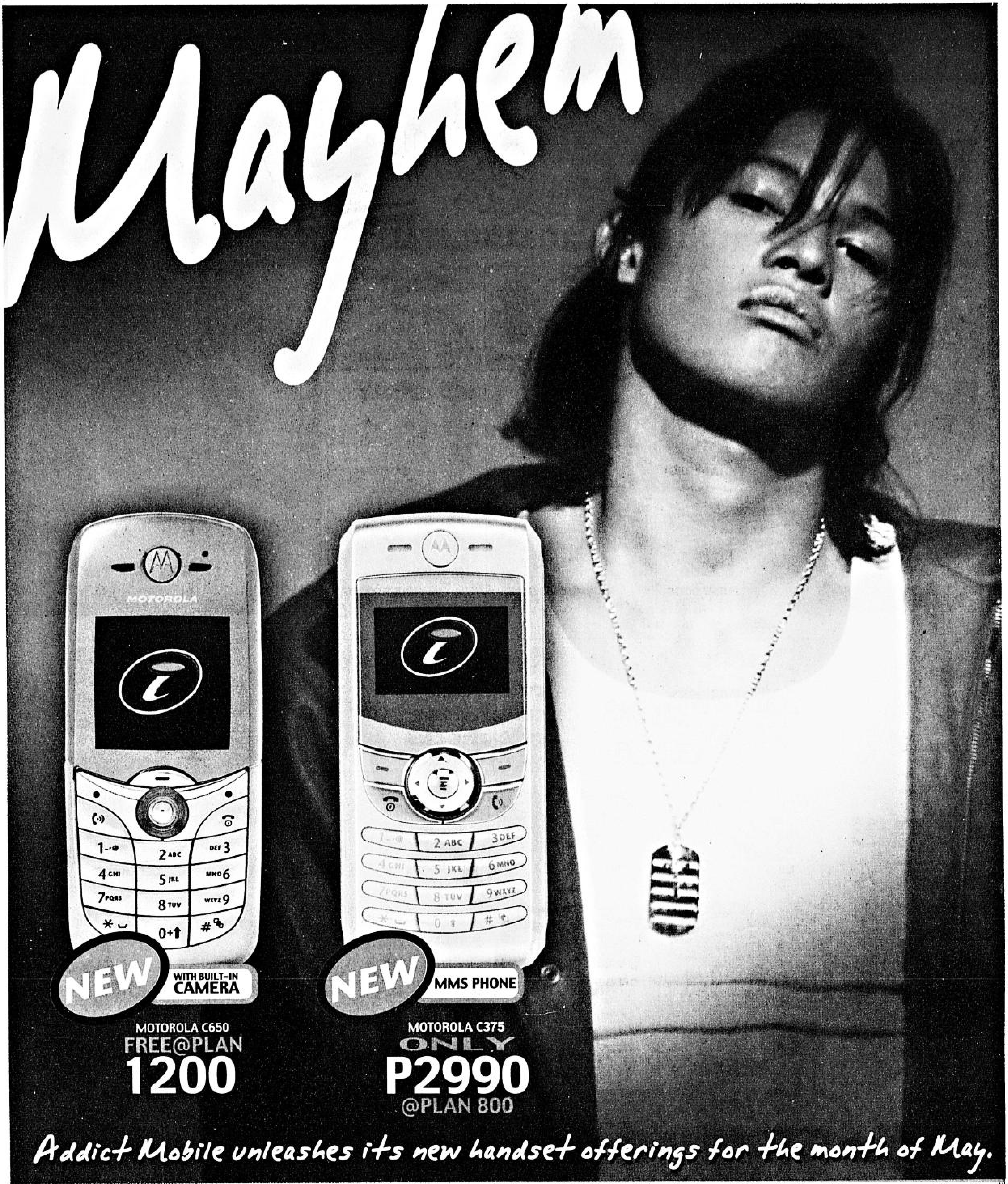

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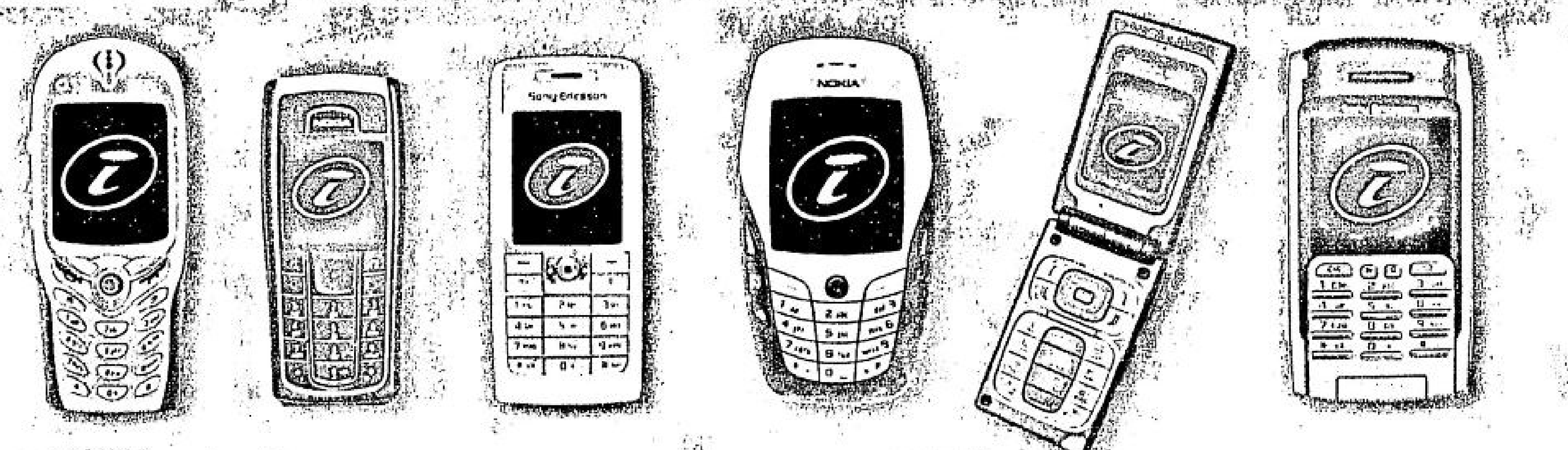

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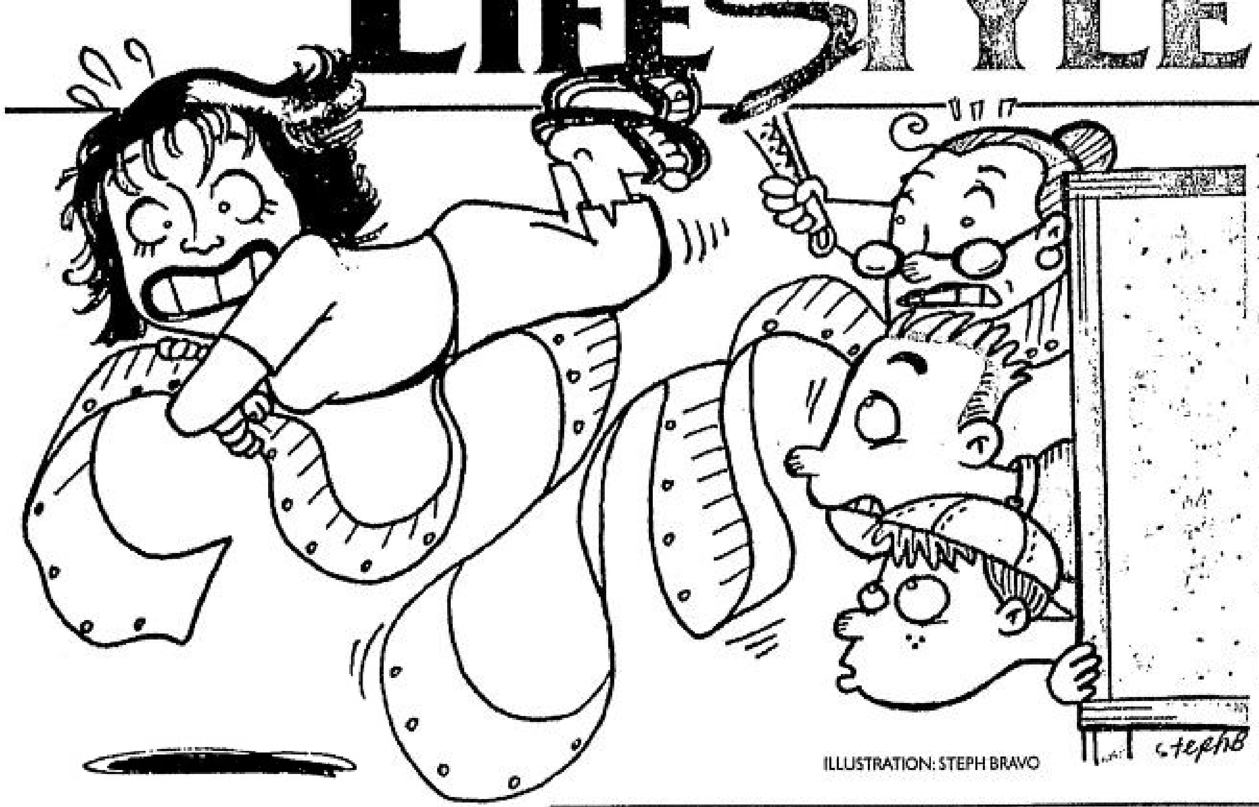

ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

I had voted in every election in this country, but this time, I got disenfranchised. The Comelec botched it big-time

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My name wasn't on the list

FOR THE FIRST time in my life I wasn't able to vote. My name wasn't on the list, on any list.

This was one week when all I could do was just watch the country—with all the wrangling, scheming and cheating politicians in it—pass me by.

LIFE-STYLED

Thelma Sioson San Juan

By 7:30 a.m., Monday, I was ready to go to the poll precinct. I expected voting to be a breeze, as it had been the past years. Voting in BF Parañaque, where I and my whole family have been registered, had never really been unwieldy. Just go to the gym beside the clubhouse, look up your name, walk to the table that's your precinct, and vote. Usually, you'd be done in less than half an hour.

Not this time. With my whole family in tow, from my parents to my son, we went to the precinct. It was my parents' second trip to the precinct that morning. Earlier they didn't have the energy—my folks are in their 80s—to worm their way into the crowd looking at the voters' list, so they went instead to the Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting (PPCRV) in BF.

So now, clutching a piece of paper with their poll precinct number on it, they joined us on our way to the precinct.

I was the one who looked at the voters' lists posted on the huge board outside the gym. By the time I had elbowed (literally) my way to the last list, I had found everyone's name except mine. Of course, in the past we were all in the same precinct. Nonetheless, I joined the family in the queue at the precinct (meaning the table), hoping that the lists on the board were incomplete. Still no name.

My mother, who's 81 but doesn't look it and certainly doesn't act it, was in full control by this time. She was in her element as she led me to the PPCRV office nearby. There we waited as the two young volunteers, using a PC and a laptop, checked the names of people who had gathered all missing names in the precinct lists. Mine wasn't there either.

Next stop was the barangay hall where, they said, the Comelec was. This too had a crowd of people looking for their names—both in hard copy and in the computer. As my mother grabbed one hard copy, I waited for my name to be searched in the computer. None also. They just gave me a Comelec number I could call. I did, of course, and it wasn't working.

Having gone over all the voters' lists available that day, I asked my son to search for my name online. Nothing.

Gross statement

What was disconcerting was that in the past, my name would be there below my parents'. I could almost point at the exact spot on the list. And I had voted in every election. I even took one morning off just to do voters' revalidation on the computer, only for the Comelec to junk it.

MY NAME/ E3

onstage 2nyt

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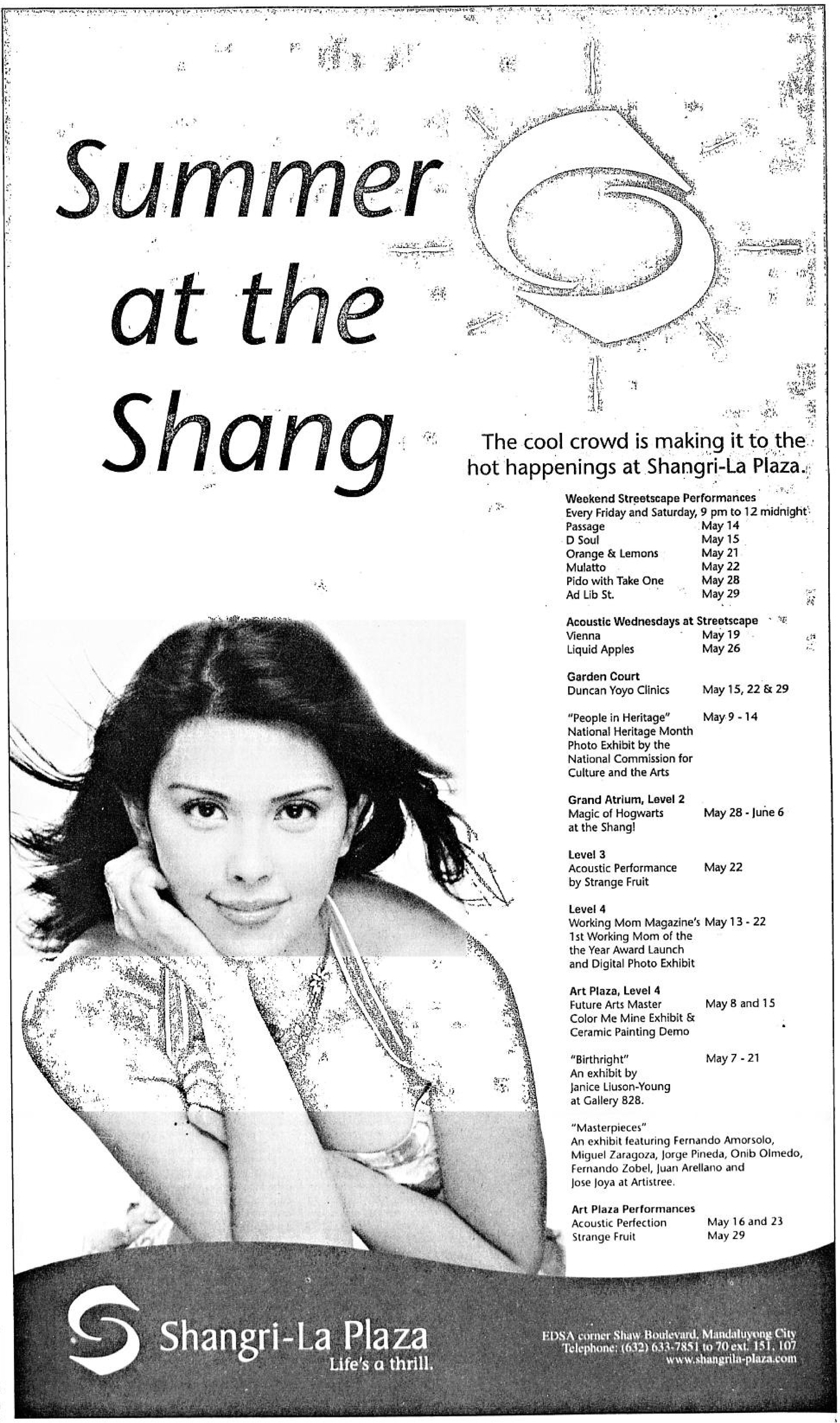

Summer at the Shang

The cool crowd is making it to the hot happenings at Shangri-La Plaza.

Weekend Streetscape Performances
Every Friday and Saturday, 9 pm to 12 midnight

Passage	May 14
D Soul	May 15
Orange & Lemons	May 21
Mulatto	May 22
Pido with Take One	May 28
Ad Lib St.	May 29

Acoustic Wednesdays at Streetscape

Vienna	May 19
Liquid Apples	May 26

Garden Court

Duncan Yoyo Clinics	May 15, 22 & 29
"People in Heritage" National Heritage Month Photo Exhibit by the National Commission for Culture and the Arts	May 9 - 14

Grand Atrium, Level 2

Magic of Hogwarts at the Shang!	May 28 - June 6

Level 3

Acoustic Performance by Strange Fruit	May 22

Level 4

Working Mom Magazine's 1st Working Mom of the the Year Award Launch and Digital Photo Exhibit	May 13 - 22

Art Plaza, Level 4

Future Arts Master Color Me Mine Exhibit & Ceramic Painting Demo	May 8 and 15
"Birthright" An exhibit by Janice Liuson-Young at Gallery 828.	May 7 - 21

"Masterpieces"
An exhibit featuring Fernando Amorsolo, Miguel Zaragoza, Jorge Pineda, Onib Olmedo, Fernando Zobel, Juan Arellano and Jose Joya at Artistree.

Art Plaza Performances

Acoustic Perfection	May 16 and 23
Strange Fruit	May 29

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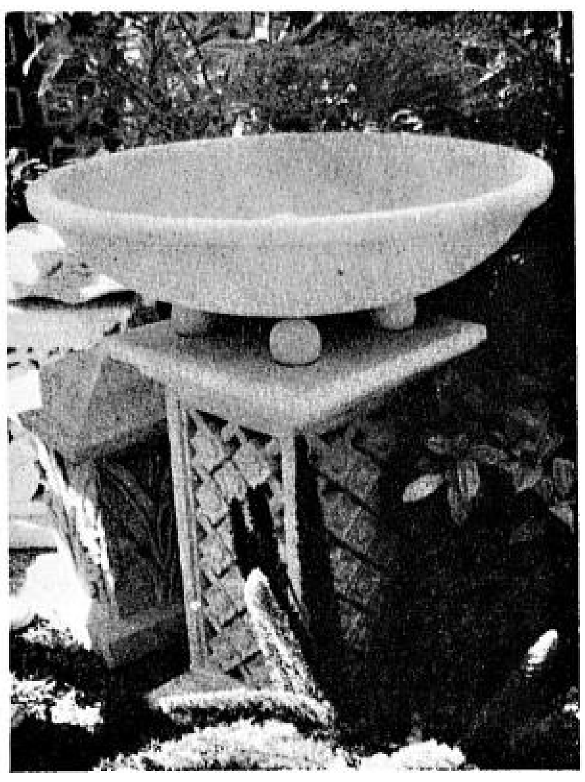
TWIN fish fountain spouts in palimanan stone

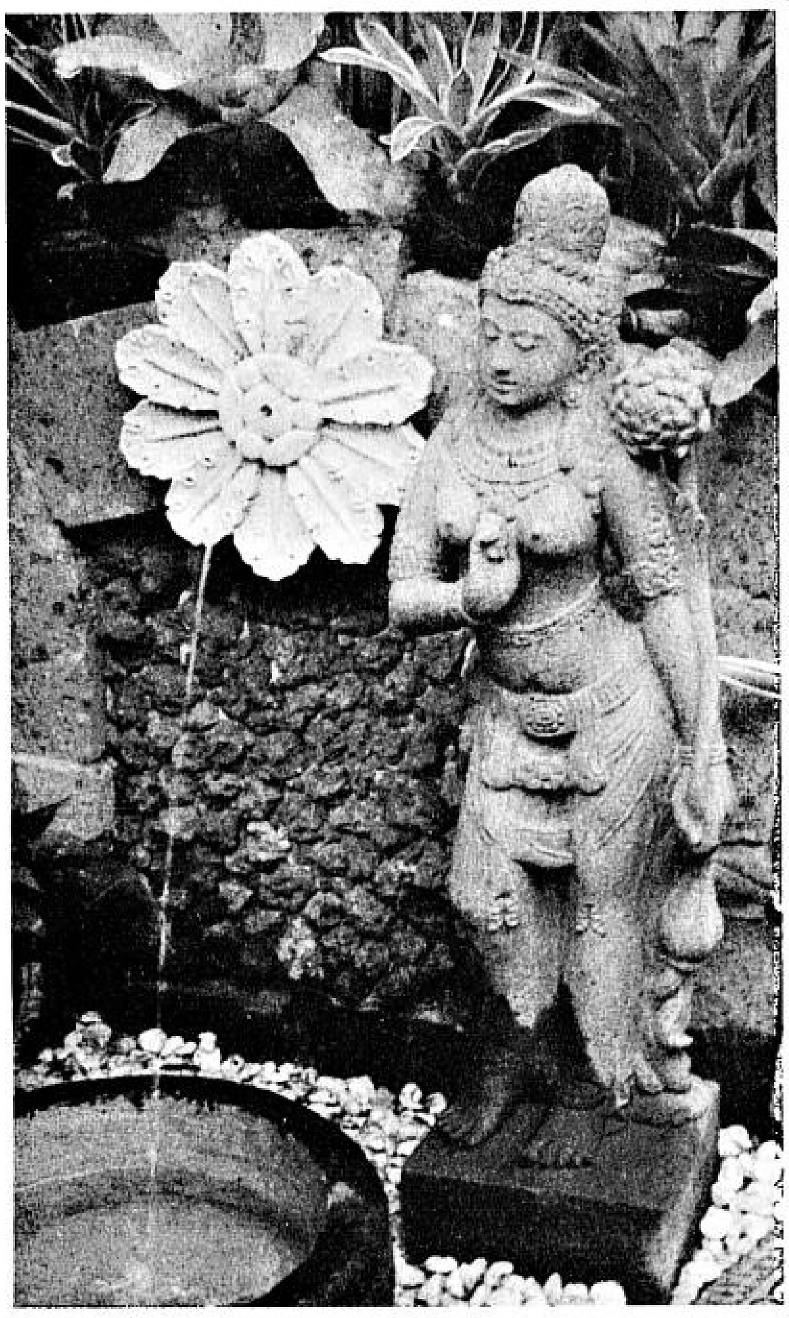
GANESHA, god of wisdom and prosperity, hand-carved in paras stone



UNIQUE fountain ensemble design in paras stone with hand-carved pedestal base

HAND-CARVED to perfection, this decorative wall relief in banana-palm design seems almost real.

Stones add Balinese flair to home and garden



DEWI Sri, rice goddess and goddess of productivity, gracefully softens the water feature of palimanan water spout in lava stones and pebbles.

NATURAL stones, which can be used for decorative wall relief, tiles and fountain ensembles, as well as steps, paving and walkways, are the new offerings from Kartini Asia Inc. in BF Homes International, Las Piñas City.

The stone products can be customized to client specifications and adapted to Balinese, Oriental or Mediterranean motifs. They are made from paras, palimanan, lava, andesite, brexi, slate or island stone pebbles.

Prominent landscape artist Nina Malvar is chair and managing director of Kartini Asia, which, in addition to natural stones and furniture, sells accessories and art pieces.

The growing interest in Balinese landscapes has inspired Malvar to combine landscape design with Indonesian interiors and furniture.

Strongly influenced by Michael White, or Made Wijaya, as he is known in design circles, Malvar has developed a passion for creating Bali-style tropical landscapes just like her mentor.

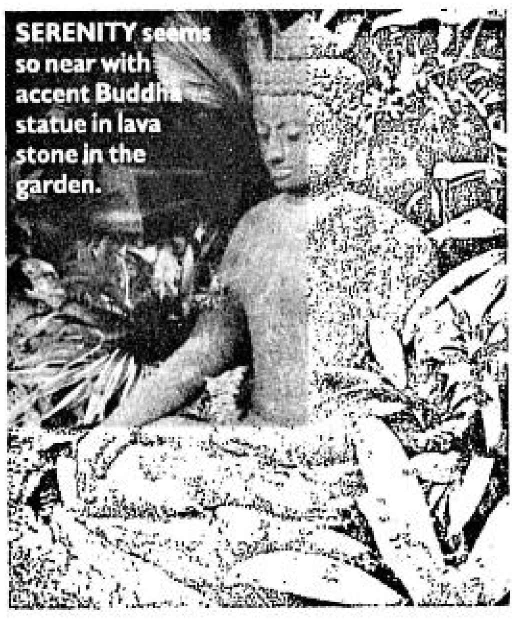
While sourcing is principally done in Indonesia, the company carries items from the Philippines, India and Vietnam. Kartini Asia Inc. has offices in Java, Jakarta and Bali, where its network of suppliers and business partners provide reliability and continuity of product and price.

The by-invitation-only launch gathered top architects and designers as well as dignitaries from the Indonesian Embassy and the private sector. Celebrity designer Tessa Prieto-Valdes and Indonesian Embassy's Minister/Charge d' Affaires Alexander Laturiuw, Trade and Commercial Attache Alexander Barus and Information Counsellor Andang Sosodoro graced the ribbon-cutting.

Kartini Asia Inc. is named after Indonesian national heroine Ibu Kartini, who fought for the rights of women to education and exposure to culture.

Kartini Asia is located at 12 Palace corner Seoul Sts., BF Homes International, Las Piñas City. Call 7880242 or 8251498, text 0919-5600931 or e-mail kartini_nm@yahoo.com.

NINA Malvar, managing director of Kartini Asia, Andang Sosodoro, Tessa Prieto-Valdes and Alex Laturiuw PHOTOS BY COCOY SARMENTA



SERENITY seems so near with accent Buddha statue in lava stone in the garden.

Bank harnesses youth's creativity in service of environment

First of two parts

SEEING GREEN

Doris Gaskell Nuydaa

BUSINESS corporations that take the time to promote love of nature among the young by making them use their artistic talents must realize that what they do goes beyond the particular project they are sponsoring.

By giving opportunities to the young to show how they feel about the forests and trees around them, these corporations not only nurture love of nature but hone artistic abilities as well. Two big corporations that show the way toward these goals are the Rizal Commercial Banking Corp. (RCBC) through its Kwentong Kalikasan Katha ng Kabataan (nature stories written by children) writing contest, and San Miguel Packaging Products with its "Scrap to Art" recycling contest.

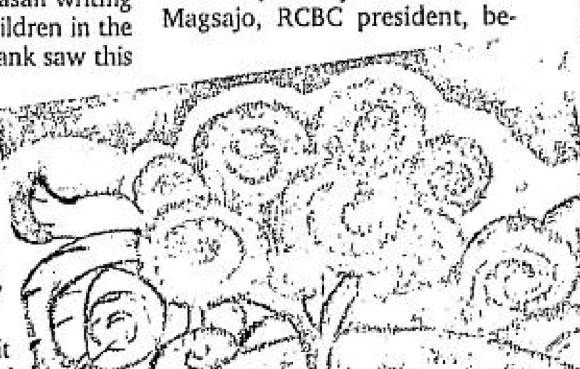
Ten-year-old contest

Ten years ago, RCBC held the first Kwentong Kalikasan writing contest for school children in the lower grades. The bank saw this not only as a way to improve the kids' writing skills but also to make them more conscious and more appreciative of the beauty and bounty of nature.

The Earth Summit in Rio had just ended then and everyone wanted to do their share for Mother Earth. The contest, obviously inspired by the international conference, was launched and opened to students of public grade schools (the latest crop comes from Grades 3-7).

The contest has become so popular and eagerly awaited that today, at the start of every contest (deadline for submission of entries is November of every year), RCBC is deluged with thousands of entries. We imagine how this must make judging—the task of project partners, Department of Education and the Philippine Board on Books for Young People—difficult but joyful.

The commitment to the environment, says Francisco Magsajo, RCBC president, becomes urgent in the face of continuing degradation of our environment. He cites startling figures on the country's remaining forest cover and one understands why RCBC has not shifted from its project vision.



Annual compilation

The four major prize-winning stories that first year, 1994, were published in a booklet, "Kwentong Kalikasan Katha ng Kabataan." It was also an activity book with pages to color and puzzles to solve. The practice has continued every year since.

Five years later, in 1999, with more public schools joining the contest, RCBC decided to go a step further by compiling the "harvest" from its earlier contests into a hardcover volume, still bearing the KKKK title, with each year indicated as Book 1, Book 2 and so on.

Last April, RCBC officials honored the latest winners in a formal ceremony marking 10 years of KKKK at its elegant new building in Makati. Honorees were composed of winners from 1999-2003 whose works are now included in the second hardcover KKKK volume.

It must be mentioned that entries can be either in English or Tagalog and are judged all together according to their individual merits, and not separated into English and Tagalog categories.

As the visual appeal of the books also depend on their attractive illustrations, RCBC recognizes the work of illustrators as well—a different one for each story—who are young people themselves, some even former contestants. Most are hired for other RCBC projects.

Winners and their schools receive cash prizes. In this win-win situation, it would be interesting to find out where such encouragement is taking the winners in their desire to protect the environment. Let's hope our future environmental professionals and nongovernment organization leaders will come from their ranks.

Awards for program

There is a postscript to this laudable project. In 2001, the Public Relations Society of the Philippines honored Kwentong Kalikasan with two Anvil Awards of Excellence in recognition of its work as an efficient advocacy tool. That same year, RCBC also received a Pearl Anniversary Award from the Reading Association of the Philippines for its outstanding literacy program.

The project has so grown in scope that this year, RCBC transferred the work of overseeing the conduct of the contest from its own offices to an advertising agency.

While KKKK books are not available in stores, they are distributed to selected public schools in the country, the Department of Education and the National Library. Inquiries may also be directed to the Media Relations Office (c/o Evelyn Morabe) of the Philippine Integrated Advertising Agency Inc.

E-mail the author at dorisnuyda@yahoo.com

SOLID brass Tulip Garden stake

Lawn and garden sale ongoing

HANDYMAN Do it Best's Lawn and Garden Sale is ongoing until May 27.

The store also offers the following tips for those wanting to get into gardening to relieve stress:

Start simple. Leave the complex orchids or exotic shrub to the experts when you know you don't really have a green thumb. Do a vegetable, flower or herb garden instead.

Know your stuff. Knowledge of the specific temperature, soil and other needs of the plants you want to grow is a plus. Visit garden shows and learn more.

Find time. Set aside time for gardening. Mornings, when everything is fresh and new and the temperature is lower, are ideal.

Opt for simple but quality tools. The tools you use should make the chore easier. Gardening gadgets—knitted cotton gloves, plastic sprayer, flower pots, garden hoses and others—are available at Handyman Do It Best at discounted rates until May 27.

Hang in there. Be patient and don't expect your herb, vegetable or flower garden to produce results immediately.

Discover the pleasure of relieving through gardening. Explore the many gardening possibilities with Handyman Do It Best's Lawn and Garden Sale.

Handyman Do It Best branches are located at Robinsons malls, Waltermart stores and leading shopping centers nationwide.

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Garden wedding exhibit

CREATIF Foire Pro Inc. and SM Megamall present "Boda en la Jardin: Experiencing the Splendor of a Garden Wedding" on May 15-28, in front of Dad's restaurant, 4/L SM Megamall, Mandaluyong.

The exhibit will feature all services that may be needed for a garden wedding. Designers, wedding planners, landscapers, photographers, caterers and many others will join the exhibit. Serapion S. Metilla of Mett's Plant Arts will feature sample landscape designs you can adapt for a garden wedding. Call 6721721 to 28.

Meanwhile, Landscape Contractors Association of the Phils. Lacap) is conducting a seminar on landscaping May 28-29 at Mett's Plant Arts, King Louis Garden Center, Manila Seedling Bank Environmental Center, corner Edsa and Quezon Avenue, QC.

The first day will cover, among others, registering a business name, vital documents, local permits and registration with the barangay and other local government units, start-up capital, location, staffing, equipment, nursery management, clients, design, implementation and maintenance.

On the second day, participants will visit Laguna and other places to familiarize themselves with ornamental plants and look at some good examples of landscaping. Expert landscapers Ernesto S. Mendoza, Lacap president, and Shirley Sanders will conduct the seminar.

A minimum fee will be charged for meals, snacks, handouts, certificate and transportation. Limited to 40 participants, advance registration is required. Call 8900434, 7285271 or fax 7285340.

My name wasn't on the list

From page E1

This time, I, a good taxpayer (it hurts every month, you know), have been dropped from the list. A friend had a consoling word: "Fear not," he texted, "somebody else anyway is voting for you, for _____."

Countless others never found their names on the voters' lists. Comelec chair **Benjamin Abalos'** statement "So far so good" about the conduct of the elections grosses you out. We have never been known for free, honest elections, and that's not unique to us—other democracies meet the same fate—but this time, just looking alone at the confusion at the poll precincts in a relatively orderly neighborhood like BF, you know the Comelec botched the job big time.

But this didn't happen overnight. Since the previous administrations, the Comelec had been a house in disarray, if not one held hostage by the powers-that-be—from the internal wranglings to the political appointments to the botched computerization.

Guarding the vote is a bedrock of any democracy. The country's institutions tasked to do it, unfortunately, have been doing the contrary.

However, unlike the young doctor determined to migrate to the US because he believes the country is hopeless, we will not run out of this country easily.

What happened last Monday, I believe, was just, in a manner of speaking, all in the day's job. In our country's case, the job will take more than a lifetime. And that's not a first in world history.

E-mail the author at tsanjuan@skyinet.net

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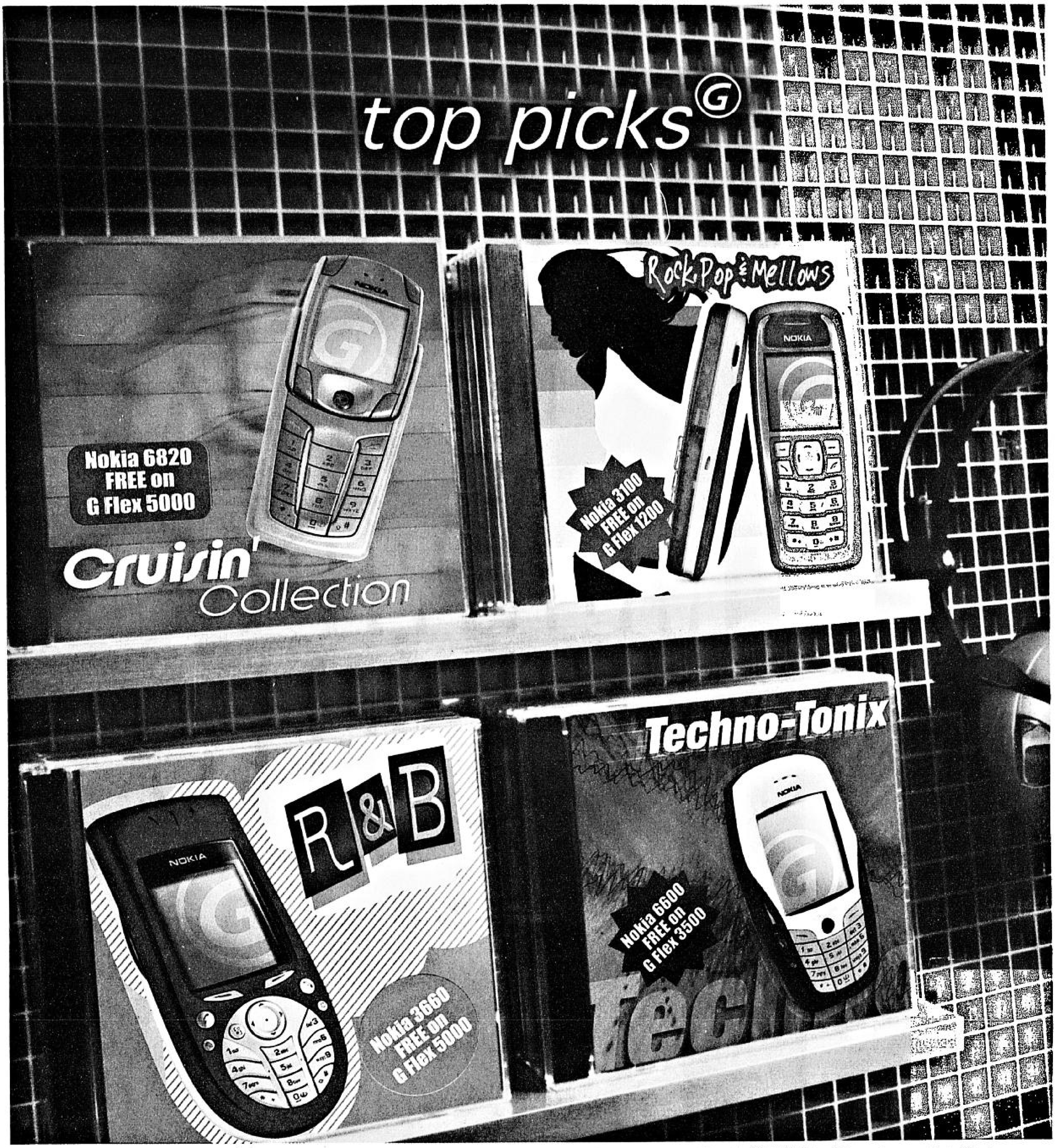
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Ⓖ Flex 5,000	P 5,000	400	P 4.00	P 4.50
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BARNEY Cheng of Hong Kong

DATIN Linda Ngiam

Truly stylish Asia

Text by Alex Y. Vergara
Photos by Chito Vecina

THE RECENT KL Fashion Week in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, was billed as the country's biggest fashion extravaganza, but the event could very well have been one of Asia's biggest as it featured clothes by both leading Malaysian and regional fashion designers.

Now on its second year, the weeklong series of shows was held at the Shangri-La Kuala Lumpur and at upscale malls such as 1 Utama, Mid Valley Megamall and Suria KLCC.

Dubbed as "Stylish Asia," the event gathered the likes of Hong Kong's Barney Cheng, India's Sabyasachi Mukherjee, Singapore's Daniel Yam, Indonesia's Sebastian Gunawan, Thailand's Saksit Pisalasupongs and Phisit Jongnaragsin of Tube and the Philippines' Rajo Laurel (*see related story on page F2*).

Chinese designer Wu Haiyan of mainland China also showed her collection a few days later.

Gala opening

Together with their Malaysian counterparts such as Rizalman Ibrahim, Steven Sin and Bernard Chandra, the regional designers opened KL Fashion Week with a gala show at the Shangri-La Kuala Lumpur's grand ballroom.

Aside from featuring regional designers, the event's sponsors and organizers led by The Star, Malaysia's leading English-language newspaper, also flew in several regional models, including Filipinos Jo Ann Bitagcol and Eazel Don.

And to ensure that the event got international coverage, organizers also invited fashion journalists from such countries as the United Kingdom, India, Thailand, Bangladesh and the Philippines.

"We're featuring around 60 designers this year as compared to last year's 40," says Datin Linda Ngiam, the Star Publications' deputy group general manager. "Whereas last year's runway shows

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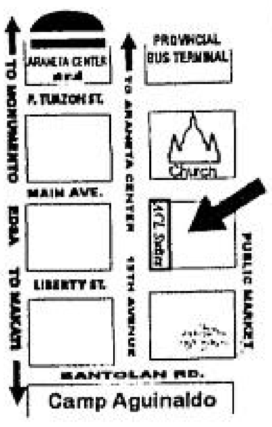

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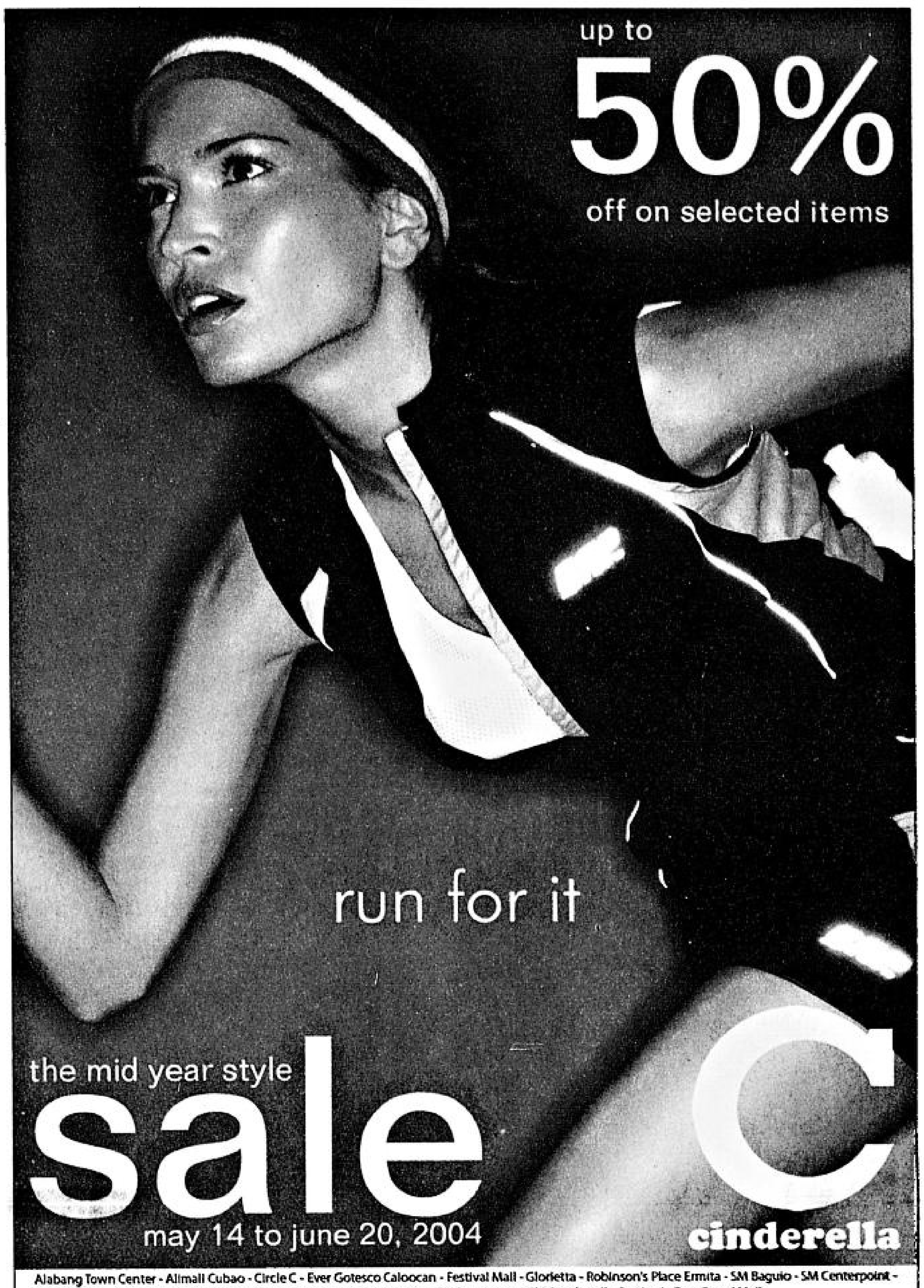
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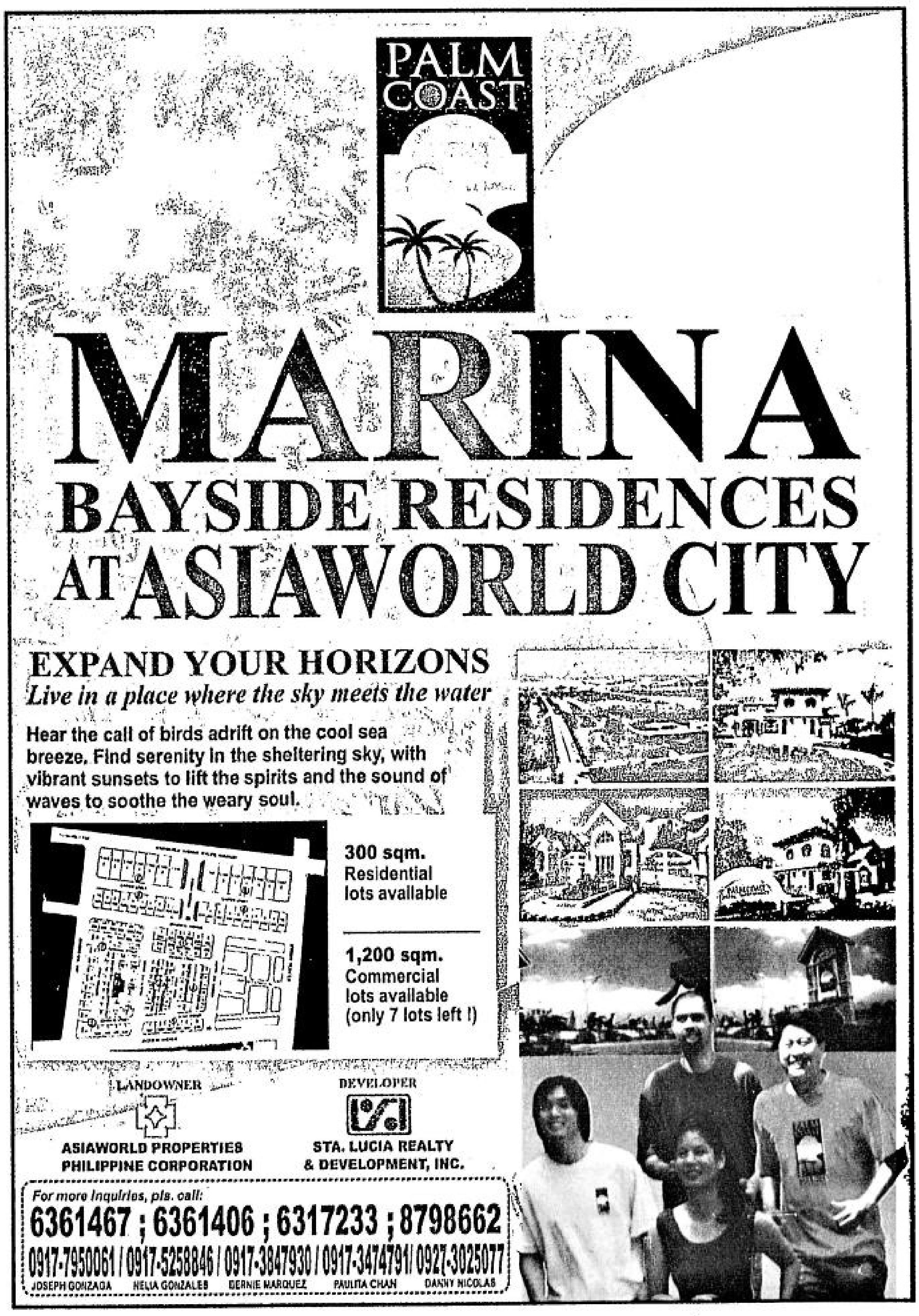
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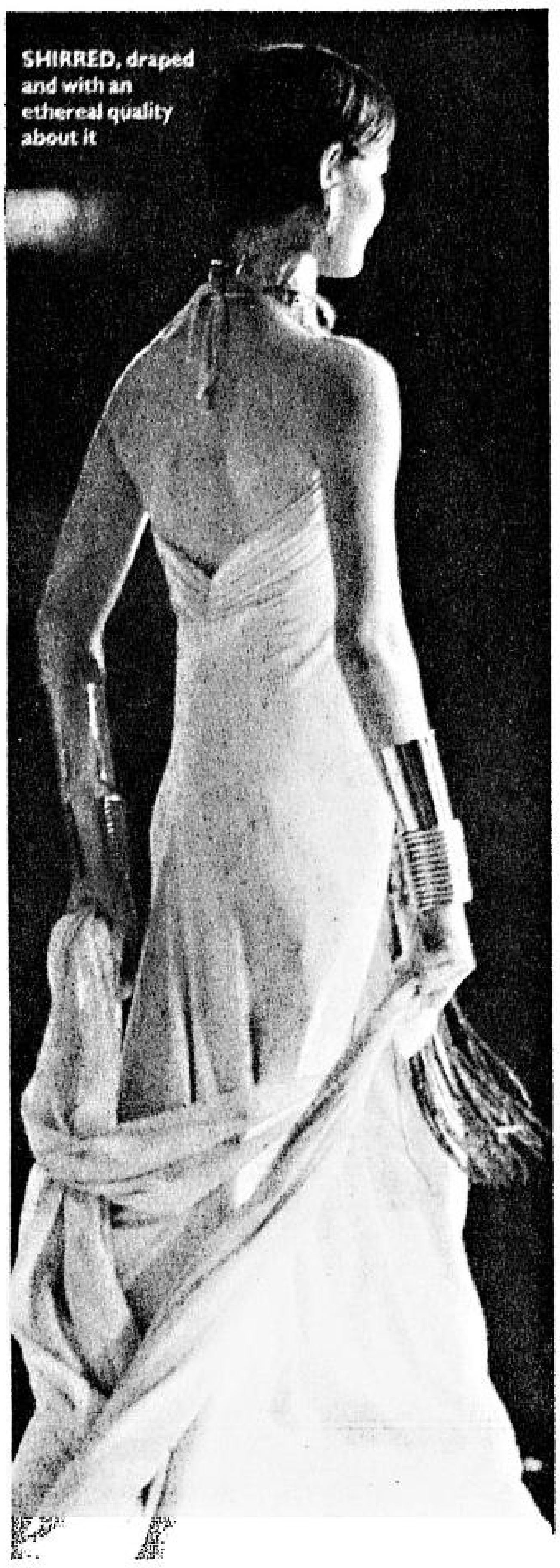
JOSEPH GONZAGA HELIA GONZALES BERNIE MARQUEZ PAULITA CHAN DANNY NICOLAS

The Filipino designer's flowing pieces dazzled the Kuala Lumpur press during KL Fashion Week


SHIRRED, draped and with an ethereal quality about it

INSTEAD of coming out individually, Laurel's models stand at the head of the catwalk before taking turns to walk down the runway individually.

WHAT he lacks in embellishment, Laurel makes up for with huge, eye-catching accessories.

SUBLIME elegance is spare, unpretentious and earthy.

Take a bow, Rajo!

MALAYSIA loves Rajo Laurel! The indefatigable fashion designer got favorable reviews from the Kuala Lumpur press for his 12-piece collection consisting of flowing and draped silk jersey gowns with minimal beadwork and in the most earthy shades such as black, white, nude and brown.

The same pieces, which he showed during the opening of Philippine Fashion Week a month ago, also dazzled a good number of fashionistas and journalists in Manila.

"I felt really proud to represent my country," says Laurel. "The reviews have been quite positive. I was even able to get an order after the show. I'm glad I got the chance to show my clothes in KL."

Laurel, who recently opened the weeklong KL fashion week together with some of the biggest names in the region, won raves for his "simple style and streamlined sophistication." One of his clothes even made it to the cover of the May 2 issue of StarMag, the Sunday magazine of The Star.

"Spare, unpretentious and dressed in undemanding colors and fabrics, the sublime elegance of the Filipino designer's collection—inspired by the land of safari and sun—is the kind of cultivated understatement that urban Asian women are beginning to love," wrote journalist Reena Gurbaksh, in her fashion review titled "A SEA of style."

Even Laurel's legendary penchant for larger-than-life styling was well received: "While the sweeping gowns had an ethereal quality

ALL IN THE FAMILY. Instead of bringing assistants with him to Kuala Lumpur, Laurel gets help from sisters Samantha and Venisse.

REGIONAL designers (from left) Daniel Yam of Singapore, Barney Cheng of Hong Kong, Laurel, Pisit Jongnarangsin and Saksit Pisalasupongs of Thailand, Sebastian Gunawan of Indonesia, Sabyasachi Mukerjee of India, and Malaysians Rizalman Ibrahim, Steven Sin and Bernard Chandran

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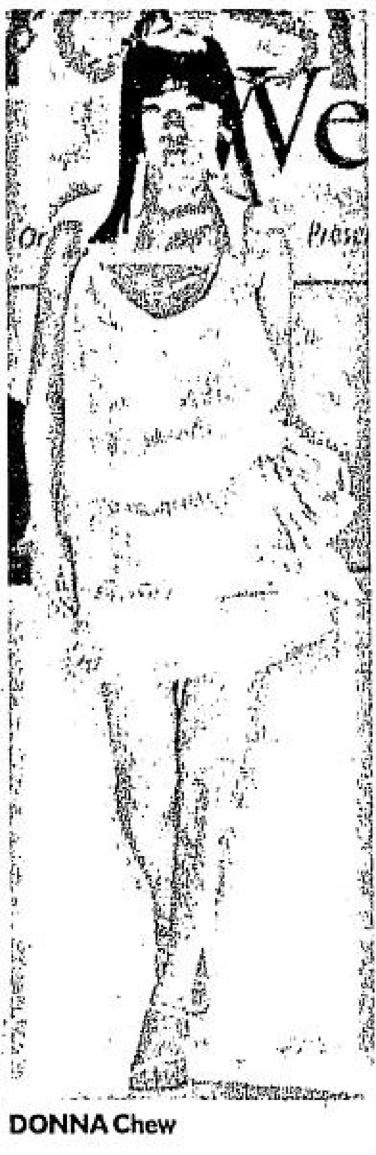
HIDEAKI Lim

TOM Abang Saufi


DONNA Chew

MELOR'S Apparel

BEATRICE Looi

MI

THAILAND'S Tube

Truly stylish Asia

From page F1

were held in one mall, we're now staging them in three. Of course, the most significant development is the participation this year of regional designers."

For some reason, regional journalists missed the gala show. But we were able to catch the clothes of some of Malaysia's best designers, including sarong queen Tom Abang Saufi, Orson Liyu, Michael Ong, Key Ng, Jonathan Cheng, Hideaki Lim, Amanda Loke, Owen Lee and Razak.

Loke and Lee are now based in London, while Razak is said to have made it big in Sydney, where he counts no less than Kylie Minogue as one of his star clients. Seasoned Malaysian-born shoe designer Jimmy Choo also flew home to KL to grace this year's fashion week.

Unlike the recently concluded Philippine Fashion Week where events for a particular day were held in one venue, the KL version staged shows that were sometimes simultaneously held in two separate places.

The shows were divided into 30-minute segments featuring three to four designers at a time. Because of the 90-minute gap in-between shows, the daily series at the malls became half-day affairs that ate up the entire afternoon and early evening.

Ngiam was mum on the actual price tag of the entire spectacle. Among KL Fashion Week's biggest sponsors were L'oreal, Malaysian Airlines, DHL and Fuji Film.

Government support

But the biggest thing going for KL Fashion Week, which the Philippine Fashion Week sorely lacks, is the financial support it gets from the Malaysian government.

"Fashion is going to be very big in Malaysia," says Ngiam. "This is supported by the fact that even the tourism ministry has identified fashion as one of its platforms to attract tourists to go to Malaysia. The wife of our prime minister is also a leading supporter of arts, culture and fashion."

That's why as early as now, organizers have moved to internationalize the event by inviting the likes of Laurel. Not only was the move a gauge for Malaysian designers to see how they fare vis-a-vis their Asian colleagues, it was also envisioned to bring regional designers to be at par with the best of the world.

"One fast way to elevate standards is to encourage Malaysian designers to compete on the regional stage," says Ngiam. "If they're only competing among themselves, the standard will only be up to here. It's good for them to see what other designers [in

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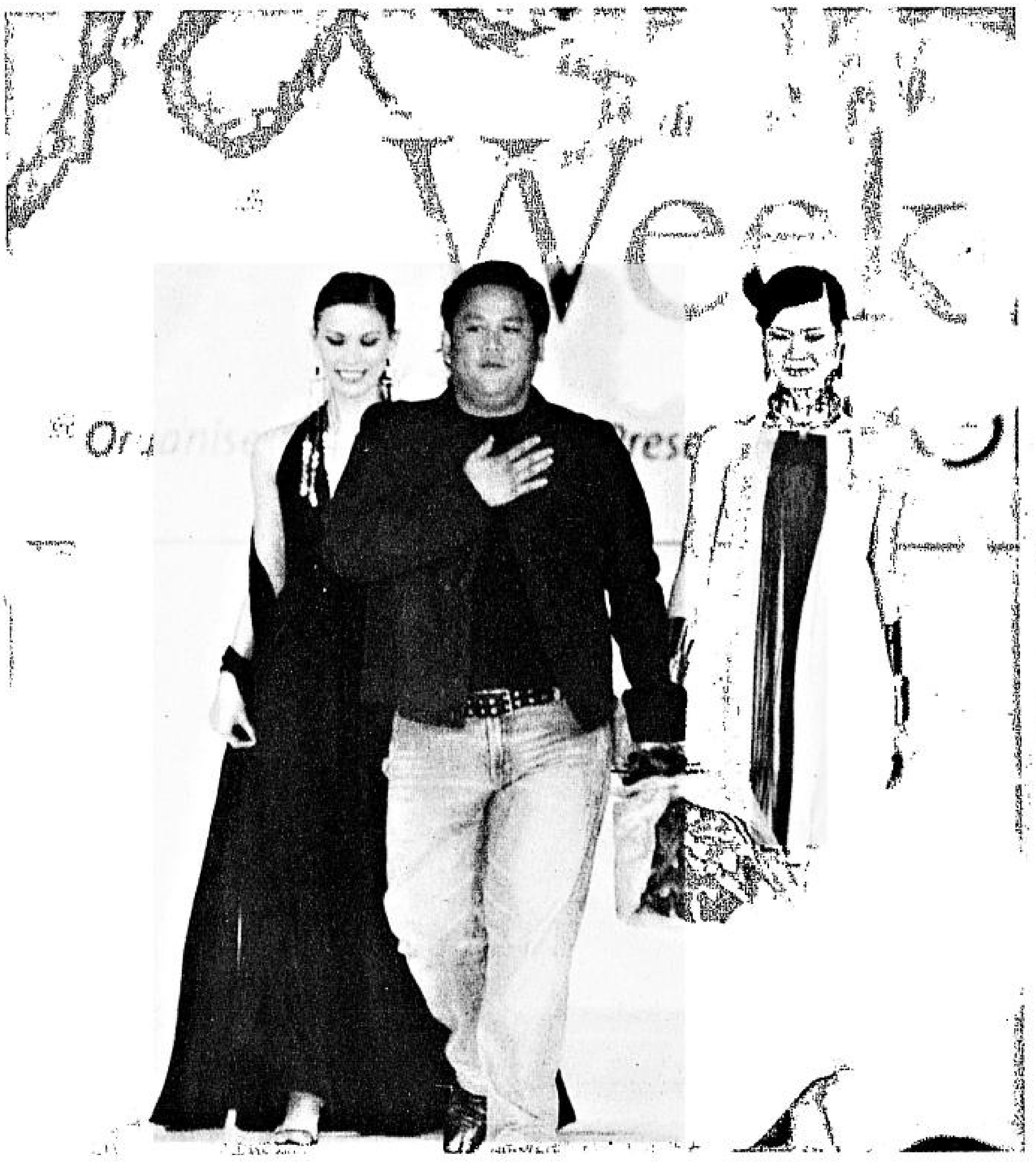


RAJO Laurel with two of his muses, Eazel Don and Jo Ann Bitagcol

about them like that favored by Calvin Klein, Laurel cleverly made up for their lack of embellishment with stunning Egyptian goddess-like matte gilt accessories that dressed up the range perfectly."

In the eyes of Gurbaksh, it seemed Laurel could do no wrong. She cited the presentation of the clothes as one of the best planned for the night. Laurel shared the night with Thailand's Tube and Indonesia's Sebastian Gunawan.

"It was good to meet up again with fellow designers from the region," says Laurel, who met most of his Asian colleagues during his first competition in Singapore a few years ago.

He counts Gunawan and Barney Cheng as among his friends from across the seas.

A separate segment featured the works of Hong Kong's Cheng, India's Sabyasachi Mukherjee and Singapore's Daniel Yam.

"Laurel was confident enough that the theme would be showcased to best effect in its entirety, so he sent out all 12 models at the start," Gurbasksh wrote. "The girls, in minimal makeup and long, neat ponytails, stood at the head of the catwalk and then took turns to walk down the runway instead of coming out individually. While this may have thrown out anticipation, Laurel's show was in no way monotonous... Laurel's purity of design held its own against the other dressier and more colorful collections of the night."

If there was one weak point Gurbaksh saw in Laurel's collection, she spun it around and managed to find something good out of it.

"The only minus point of the range—if I was forced to pick one—is this: It would have been nice to see how the designer would have treated garments other than flowing robes, like dressy pantsuits or short slip dresses. Still, Laurel gets my vote for best of the night."

Take a bow, Rajo. *Alex Y. Vergara*

e number makes it to the
ıg.

KL Fashion Week was bigger than ever as it featured clothes by leading Malaysian and regional designers, including RP's Rajo Laurel, this year

CHAEL Ong

ORSON Liyu

TOM Abang Sauri

region] are capable of."

Malaysian designers welcome h opportunities and were said be thrilled to see for themves a smorgasbord of the best a has to offer.

still, Saufi, who made a name herself designing colorful and the-rack wraparound jackets, uses and sarongs fashioned in locally produced batik that dly make use of zippers, hooks l buttons, has yet to feel the netary benefits from joining h events.

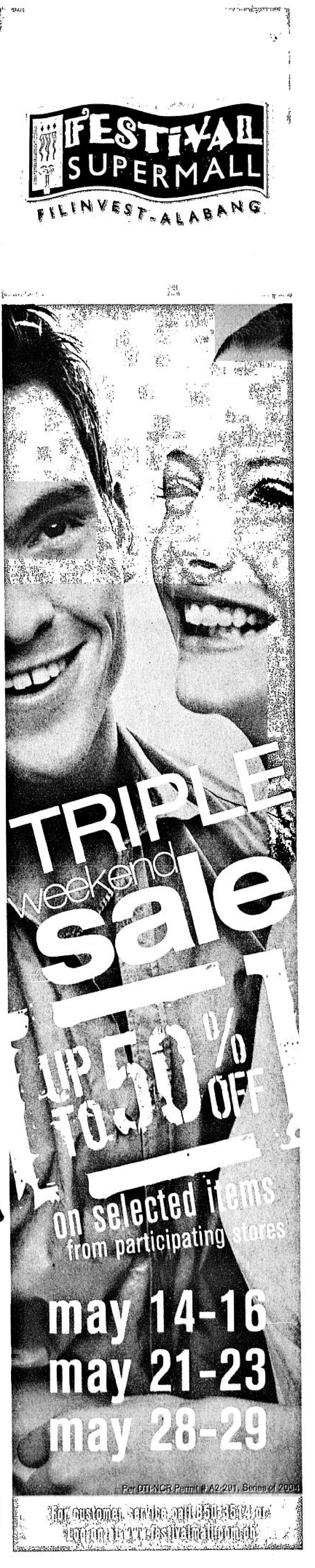
I haven't really thought about it," says the designer. "Of course, [through Fashion Week] you get tremendous exposure within the Malaysian market. In terms of foreign [demand], it's still a bit slow. Anything that helps boost the industry, however, is welcome."

Saufi, who attended last year's terno ball in Manila, counts Lucy Torres as among her avid customers here. Until her most recent visit to the Philippines, she had no idea that a good number of Filipinos would love her stuff.

Model-turned-fashion designer Orson Liyu, a first-time participant in KL Fashion Week, credits the annual event for many things. He's known in Malaysia for his romantic lines that combine ruffles, flounces and floral appliqué using soft fabrics such as chiffon and organdy in the most delicious color combinations.

Liyu, who staged a fashion show with other Filipino designers sometime last year in Cebu City, dreams of someday coming up with a wedding collection inspired by the Philippine terno and barong.

TRULY/ F4



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[illegible]

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MICHAEL Ong

KEY Ng

SABYASACHI Mukherjee of India

SEBASTIAN Gunawan of Indonesia

Truly stylish Asia

From page F3

Liberal country

Despite being a predominantly Muslim country, Malaysia is quite liberal when it comes to fashion—or at least, when it comes to fashion shows.

Sure, the series of shows had its share of designers who did lovely and stylized turbans and veils, but a good number also did body-hugging silhouettes, plunging necklines, see-through blouses and miniskirts that are de rigueur in the West, but often raise eyebrows in more conservative Muslim societies.

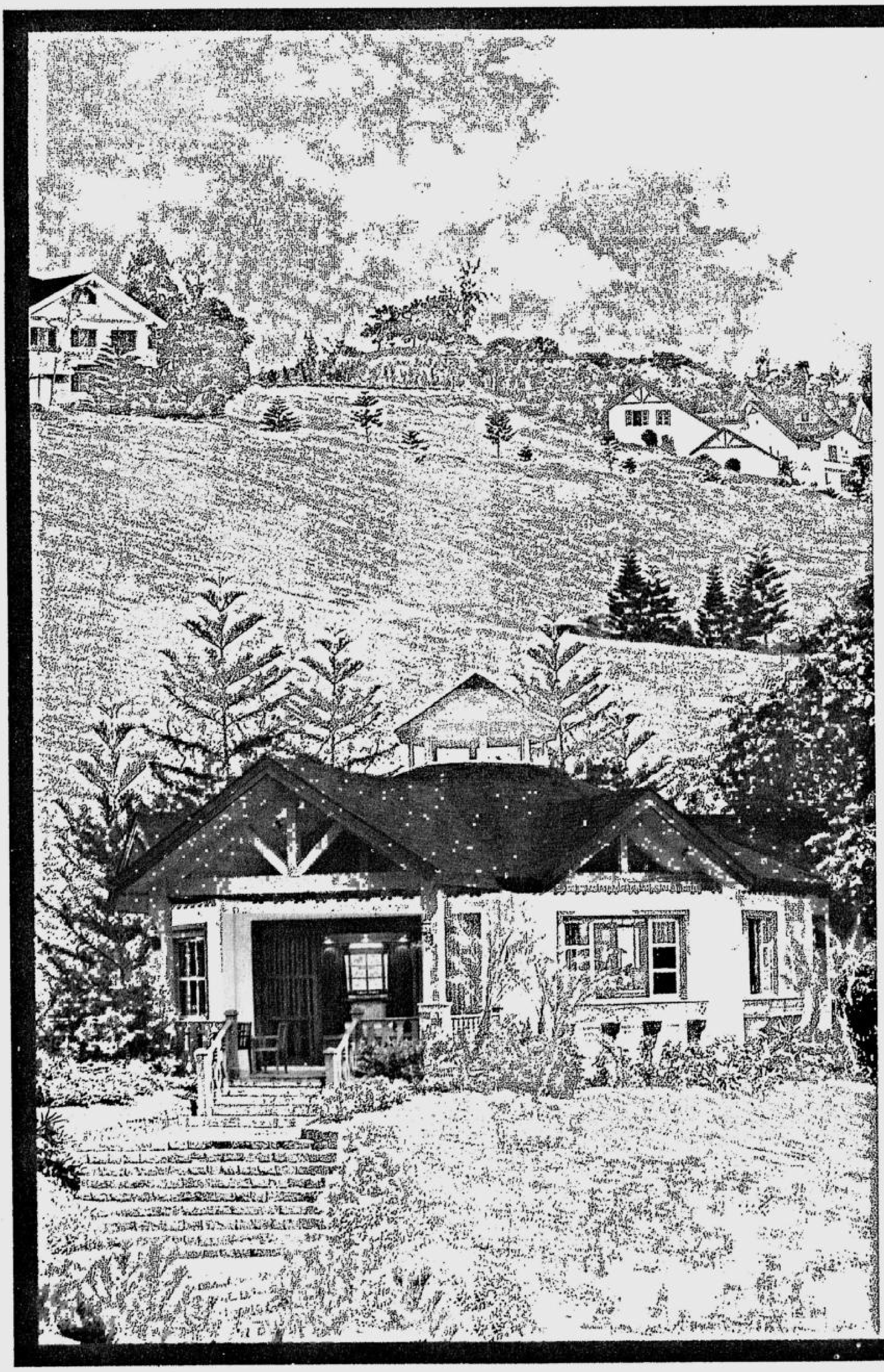
"For a moment I thought some of the designers showed skirts that were a bit too short," Ngiam says with a chuckle, "but the shows went on. Some people in the audience were probably holding on to their seats, but as a whole I think that they've accepted that fact that this is Fashion Week. Designers are bound to present all sorts of clothes."

Such liberal-minded openness comes in tandem with pride in one's culture and people, which Malaysians have plenty of. Ngiam, for instance, believes that Asian designers, including Malaysians, are now at par with their counterparts in Milan, Paris and New York.

"The rest of the world is slowly paying attention to Asia," she says. "People are beginning to see that we have lots of talented designers."

Through such efforts as KL Fashion Week, perhaps it won't be long before more Asian designers gain a foothold in the so-called fashion capitals of the world.

E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph



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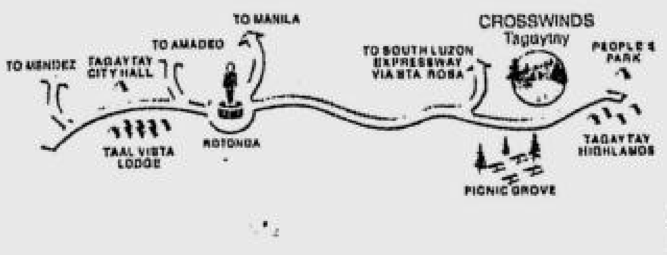

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Summer pampering for moms

MAKEOVER 911

Kinny Salas

HERE are perfect gift ideas for resort-loving mommies. There is an entire arsenal of skincare products out there just for them, as we all know the sun is murder to one's hair and skin.

Kerastase Soleil-Voile Protecteur (P1,025) is an invisible and nongreasy sunprotection spray for hair and exposed scalp that keeps my highlights in great condition.

Usually when I go under the sun for even just 10 minutes my hair color gets brassy and cheap-looking, but this product allows me to go under the sun for hours.

I rinse off with Bain Apres Soleil shampoo (P780), which gives back the elasticity and silky texture of strengthened hair. I use Crème Richesse (P1,070) as a daily conditioner for hair ends, and set aside a day a week for deep conditioning treatment. I leave it on for 10 minutes all over my hair, then rinse off with Apres Soleil. No trace of hair damage!

Godiva Safe Sea SPF 30++ sunblock with jellyfish sting protection for adults (P348) and kids (P358). Inspired by "Finding Nemo," as clown fish are immune to the jellyfish stings, Godiva Safe Sea, when applied to the skin, will mimic the effects of clown fish skin so sea lice and jellyfish spores won't harm us. But you have to reapply it every two hours as sweat and water gradually washes it off.

Meanwhile, nongreasy face sunblocks like Phytomer SPF 30, Skinceuticals Ultimate defense SPF 30, VMV Armada SPF 60 won't make you break out in zits and keep your face looking matte.

Nars makeup Spring 2004 Flirtatious Fantasy. This look was inspired by women who love island-hopping, coral sunsets, tropical blue ocean and fresh fruits.

Beach lovers pack their Nars multiple sticks for all-over color. My favorite colors for specific areas are: Fathom e/s (pink with silver glitter) for the eye; and for the cheeks, Cream Blush, which are multiple sticks that can be used for both lips and cheeks. Penny Lane is a nude pink cream blush and Montenegro is a mahogany shade that's great for darker skin lips and cheeks.

Great Powder blushes are Mata Hari (pink with tinge of crimson) and Passion (warm peach). For lips, try Frisky summer (raspberry sorbet) and Turkish Delight (pink sorbet). Check out as well the two limited-edition palettes at Essences and get your Nars favorites at a discount.

Shiseido Sun Care line. Undoubtedly one of the best liquid foundations with SPF there is, this product feels weightless, smells heavenly, looks sheer and gives the look of perfect bare skin. At SPF 43, it does not clog pores like other high SPF foundations, and dries to a smooth powder finish while blurring imperfections.

The best part? It is water-resistant, so even when you are sweating buckets this summer you don't grease up. The pack includes a trademark Shiseido sponge in a compact so you can touch up and maintain the look all day.

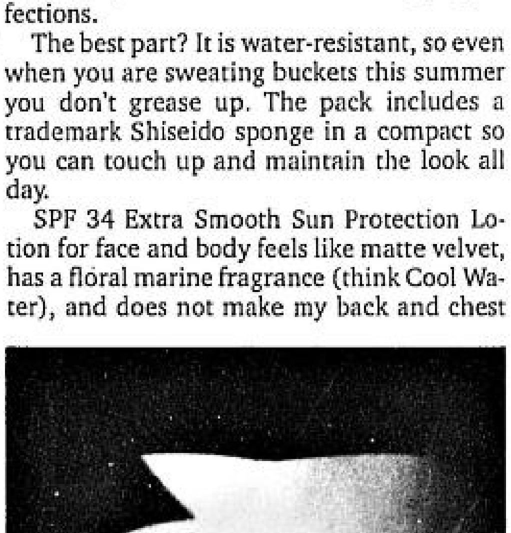
SPF 34 Extra Smooth Sun Protection Lotion for face and body feels like matte velvet, has a floral marine fragrance (think Cool Water), and does not make my back and chest break out. This line also has SPF 30 lip treatment and an After Sun Intensive Recovery Cream.

SUMMER/ G4

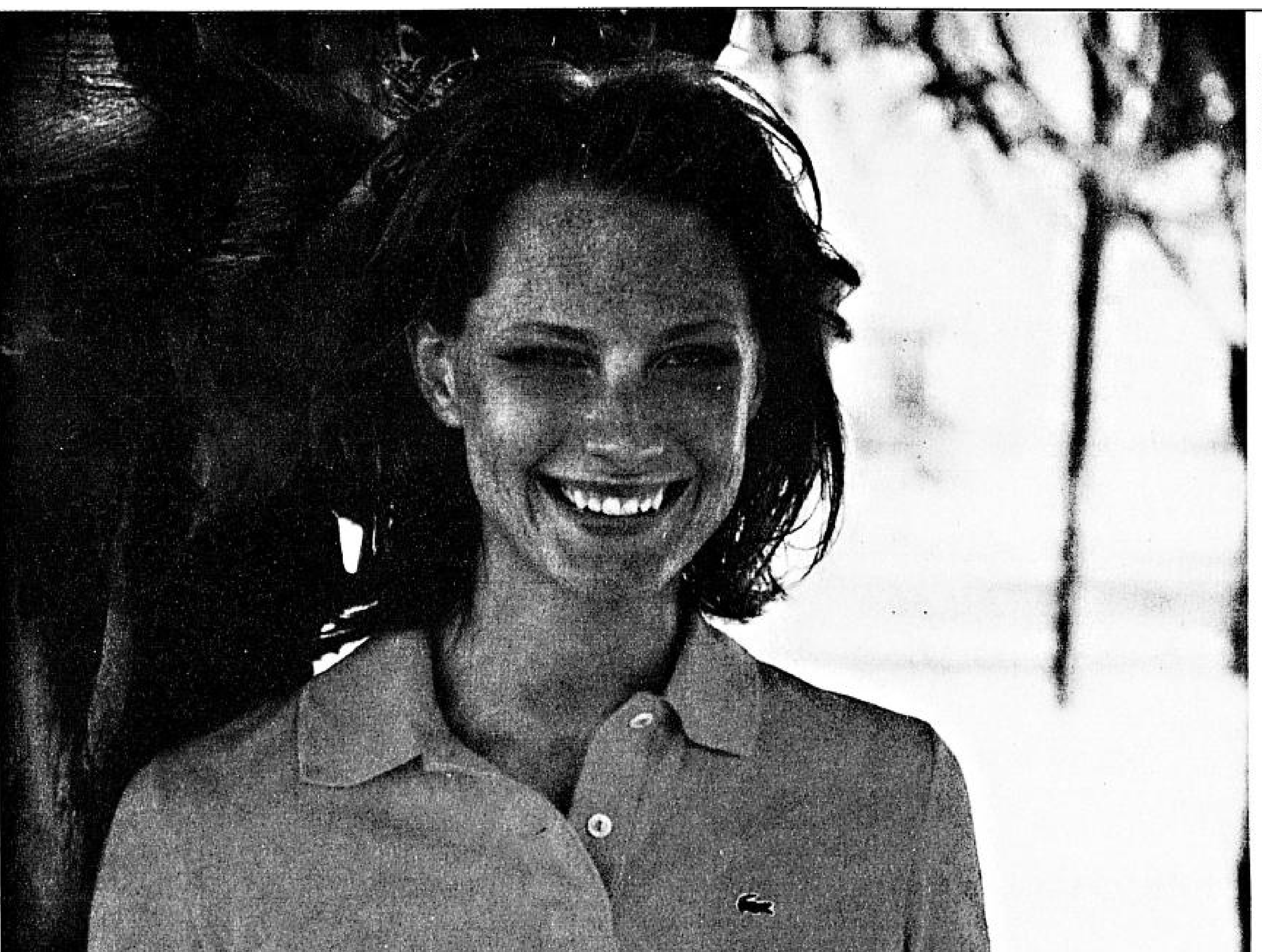
> Yes, there is an entire arsenal of skincare products out there for harried mothers trying to keep up with their beach-loving brood

ORIGINS
Paradise Found

ORIGINS Paradise Found



NARS' resort beauty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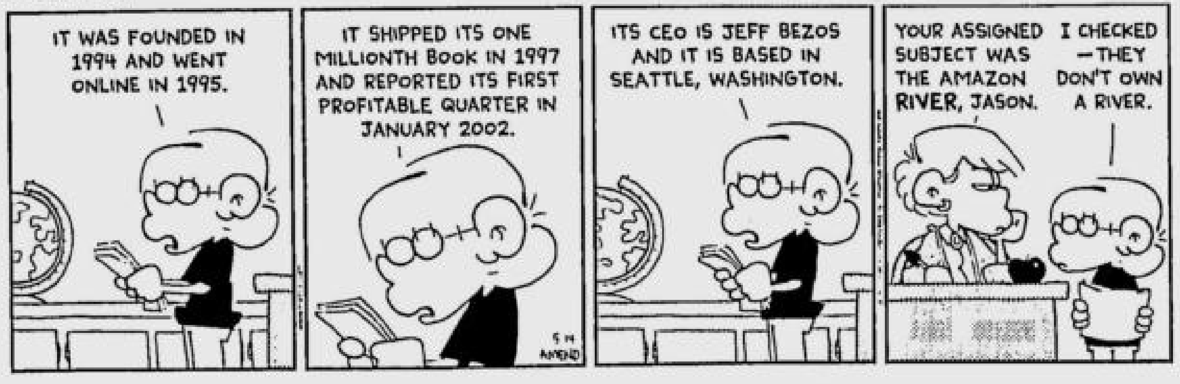
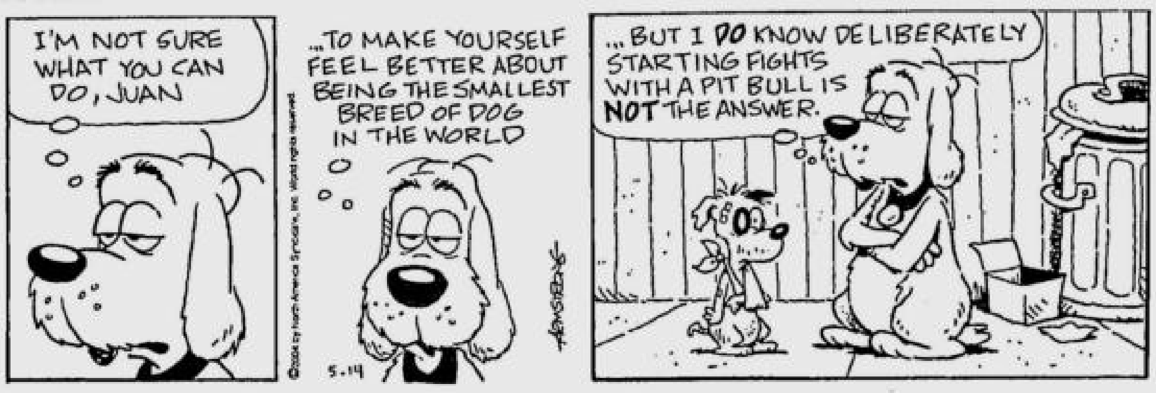
FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND


IT WAS FOUNDED IN 1994 AND WENT ONLINE IN 1995.
IT SHIPPED ITS ONE MILLIONTH BOOK IN 1997 AND REPORTED ITS FIRST PROFITABLE QUARTER IN JANUARY 2002.
5-14 AMEND
ITS CEO IS JEFF BEZOS AND IT IS BASED IN SEATTLE, WASHINGTON.
YOUR ASSIGNED SUBJECT WAS THE AMAZON RIVER, JASON.
I CHECKED —THEY DON'T OWN A RIVER.

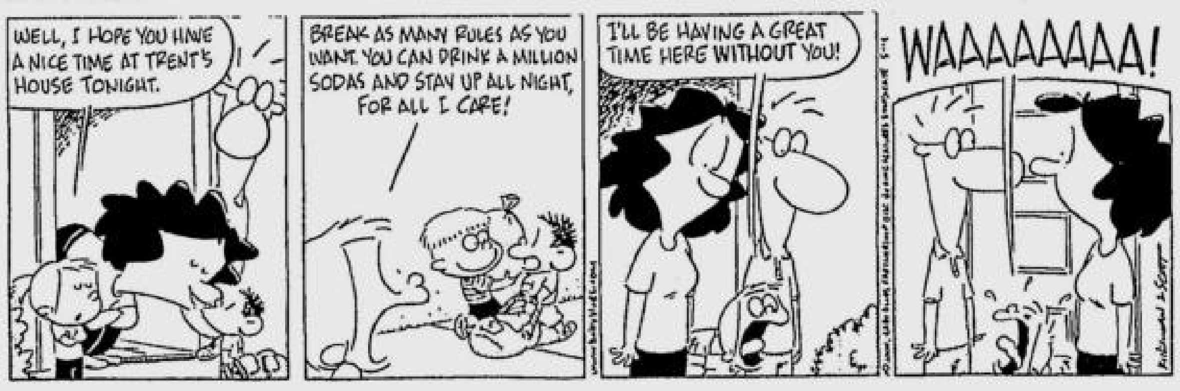
MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG


I'M NOT SURE WHAT YOU CAN DO, JUAN
...TO MAKE YOURSELF FEEL BETTER ABOUT BEING THE SMALLEST BREED OF DOG IN THE WORLD
5-14
ARMSTRONG
...BUT I DO KNOW DELIBERATELY STARTING FIGHTS WITH A PIT BULL IS NOT THE ANSWER.

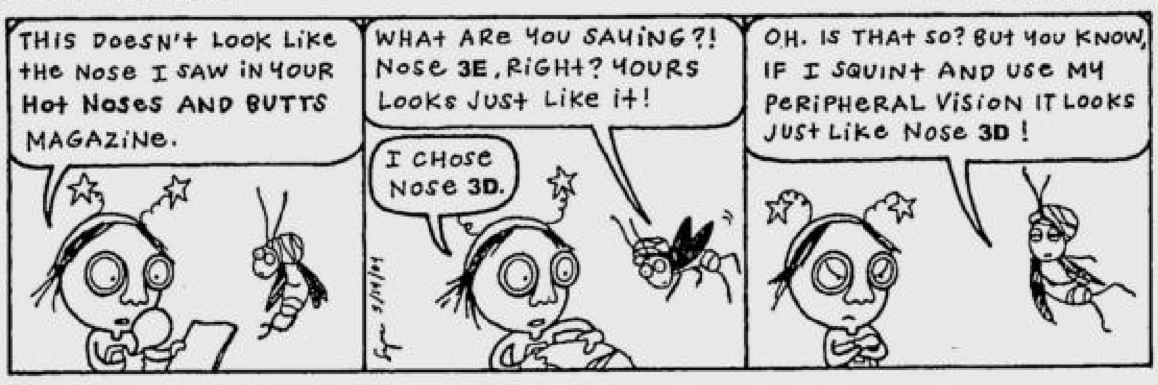
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


WELL, I HOPE YOU HAVE A NICE TIME AT TRENT'S HOUSE TONIGHT.
BREAK AS MANY RULES AS YOU WANT. YOU CAN DRINK A MILLION SODAS AND STAY UP ALL NIGHT, FOR ALL I CARE!
I'LL BE HAVING A GREAT TIME HERE WITHOUT YOU!
WAAAAAAAA!

ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


THIS DOESN'T LOOK LIKE THE NOSE I SAW IN YOUR HOT NOSES AND BUTTS MAGAZINE.
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?! NOSE 3E, RIGHT? YOURS LOOKS JUST LIKE IT!
I CHOSE NOSE 3D.
OH. IS THAT SO? BUT YOU KNOW, IF I SQUINT AND USE MY PERIPHERAL VISION IT LOOKS JUST LIKE NOSE 3D!

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You're a modern person. You keep abreast of the times. New technology intrigues you, and you often find original uses for it. Whatever you do, you are a perfectionist! No detail is too small. Obstacles do not daunt you, because you're not a quitter. Increased solitude this year will help you learn something important.

Birthdate of: Cate Blanchett, actress; George Lucas, director; Tim Roth, actor.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Never lose sight of the fact that at this point in your life, it's important that you secure your home base and your family scene. This is of paramount importance now.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): In many ways, your daily routine is changing. This could be a conscious choice or something due to a residential or job move. (It's inevitable.)

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): The purpose of life is to be happy. The major question on your mind this year is: What will it take to make you happy? Think about it, you'll know what to do.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): You have recently embarked on an entirely new journey in your life. A new wardrobe, new surroundings, a change in partnerships—these are all possibilities now.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Because you are soon heading into something completely different, you have to unload and pare down your belongings. Get rid of what you no longer need. Give it away, sell it or toss it out.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): You've learned a tremendous amount lately. Essentially, you see what you can do, and at the same time, you see your limitations. (Very wise.)

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Much of what you've worked for in the past 14 years (certainly the past seven years) now comes to fruition. That's because it's harvest time for you!

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Work hard now. Your career peak is in sight. Everything that you do will build up to a time of culmination in 2005-'06. Good luck.

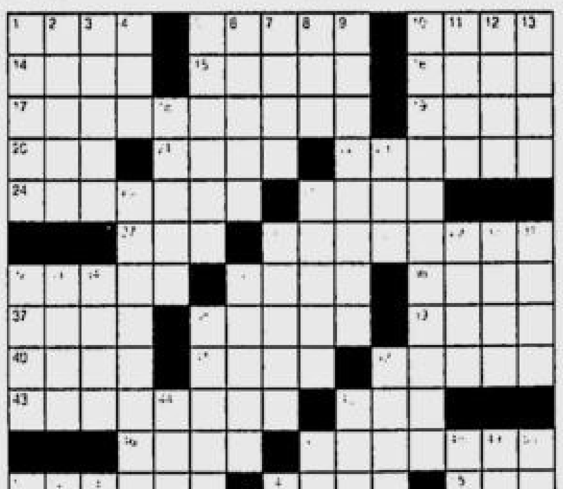
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): The fact that you've gotten along with less support from partners and from others has only strengthened you. Now you know what you're made of. (Top grade.)

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Your most serious partnerships might be a source of difficulty. Those that have outlived their usefulness will end. Those that are meant to endure will do so.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): You're busting your buns to achieve something. It's terribly important to keep up this pace even though, at times, it's overwhelming.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Never before have you been so keen to sing your song. You want more than just a job. You want to discover what it is that you are meant to do.

DAILY CROSSWORD



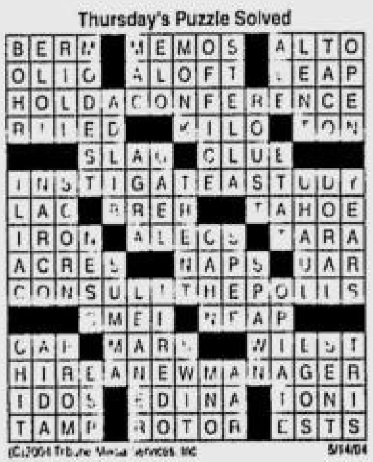
By Allan E. Parrish
Mentor, OH

5/14/04

ACROSS
1 Big do of the 60s
5 In the lead
10 Camaro model
14 Sketch
15 Ricky's contract with Fred, e.g.
16 Lawless character
17 "Bits and Pieces" grp.
19 How some sit by
20 Falsehood
21 Brass instrument
22 Pesters
24 1985 Daytona 500 winner Bill
26 Coalition of voters
27 Treasury Dept. component
28 Sinister pitcher
32 Plant louse
35 Sticky stuff
36 __ of the above
37 Anthropologist Margaret
38 Print media
39 Freeze front?
40 Verve
41 Go by Greyhound
42 Fall beverage
43 Hawkeye and Trapper, for two
45 Part of m.p.g.
46 Captures
47 Rumpled
51 Tex-Mex treat
54 Taylor and Torn
55 Clay, today
56 Very excited
57 "Greenfields" grp.
60 Broadcaster Limbaugh
61 Shop machine
62 Tim Rice/Elton John musical
63 Gather
64 Imaginary substance
65 Just gets by

DOWN
1 Mix up
2 Weak
3 "Bolero" composer
4 Be indebted to
5 Divvies up
6 "Alone" rockers
7 Merit
8 Pose questions
9 Reduces in worth
10 "And All That Could Have Been" grp.
11 Give a new look to
12 Just
13 Small islands
18 Combination of musical tones
23 __ for profit
25 "Joy to the World" grp.
26 Hoist, nautically
28 Iditarod rides
29 "On Golden __"
30 Pot starter
31 Small dam
32 Natl. reps.
33 Lima location
34 Filament
35 Impish smiles
38 Likely but uncertain
42 Antecedent
44 Chow down
45 Fred Grandy on "The Love Boat"
47 One-tenth donation
48 Eye surgery
49 Slur over
50 Prima donnas
51 Cultivate
52 Chills and fever
53 Actor Ferrer
54 Type of IRA
58 Cellar dweller
59 "Norma __"

Thursday's Puzzle Solved



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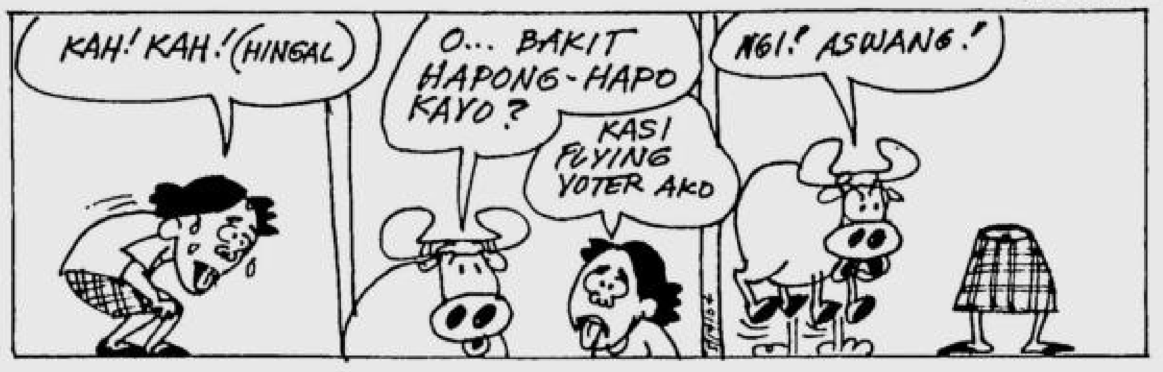
5/14/04

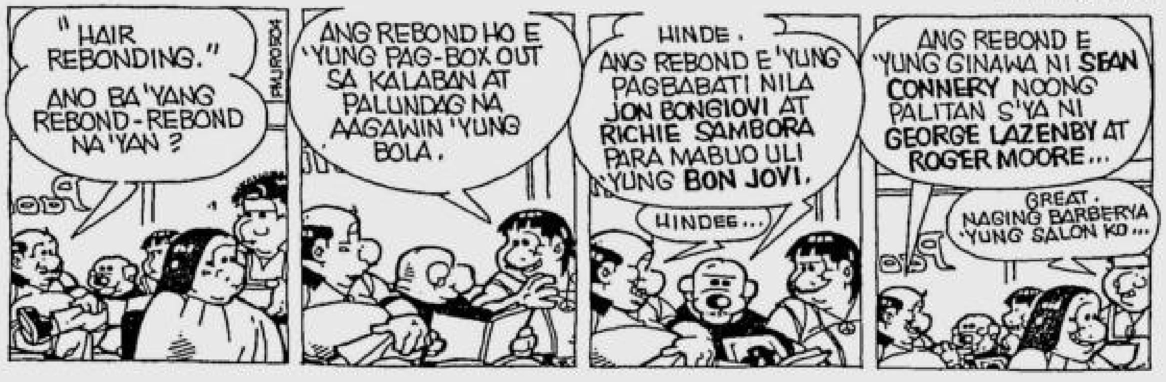
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


KAH! KAH! (HINGAL)
O... BAKIT HAPONG-HAPO KAYO?
KASI FLYING VOTER AKO
NGI! ASWANG!

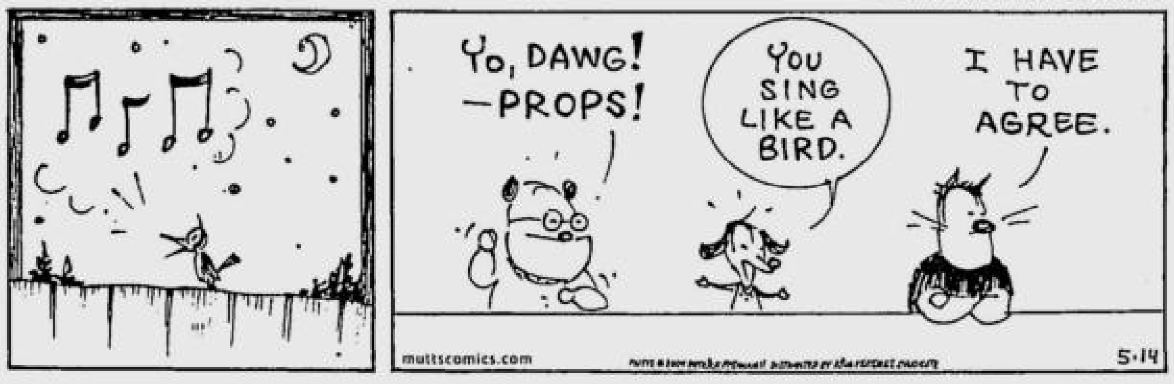
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


"HAIR REBONDING."
ANO BA 'YANG REBOND-REBOND NA 'YAN?
ANG REBOND HO E 'YUNG PAG-BOX OUT SA KALABAN AT PALUNDAG NA AAGAWIN 'YUNG BOLA.
HINDE.
ANG REBOND E 'YUNG PAGBABATI NILA JON BONGIOVI AT RICHIE SAMBORA PARA MABUO ULI 'YUNG BON JOVI.
HINDEE...
ANG REBOND E 'YUNG GINAWA NI SEAN CONNERY NOONG PALITAN S'YA NI GEORGE LAZENBY AT ROGER MOORE...
GREAT. NAGING BARBERYA 'YUNG SALON KO...

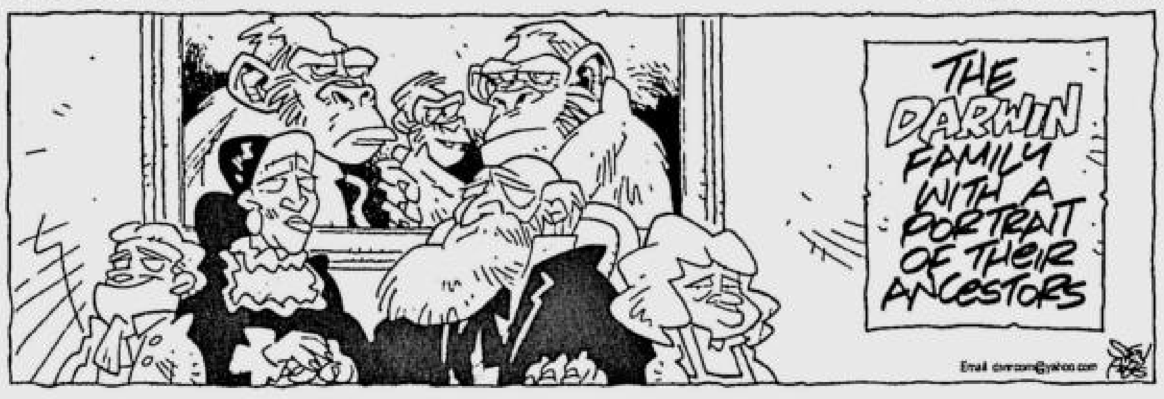
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


YO, DAWG! —PROPS!
YOU SING LIKE A BIRD.
I HAVE TO AGREE.
muttscomics.com
5-14

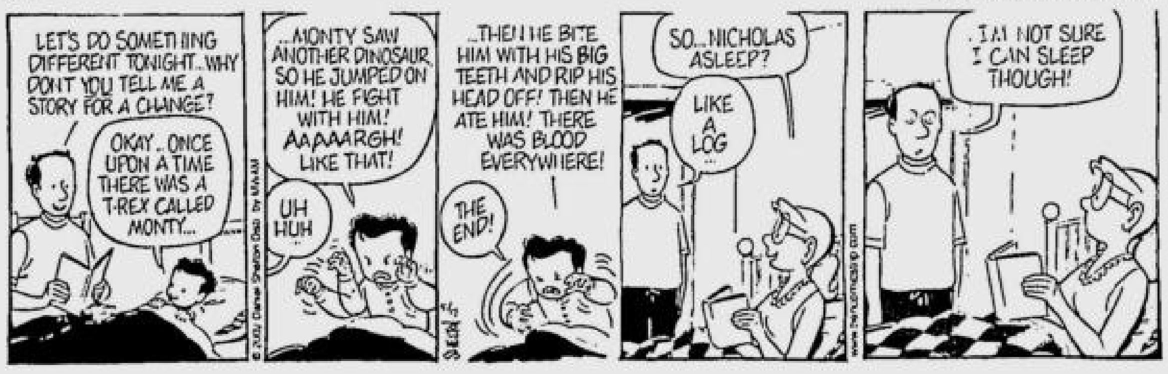
DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS


THE DARWIN FAMILY WITH A PORTRAIT OF THEIR ANCESTORS

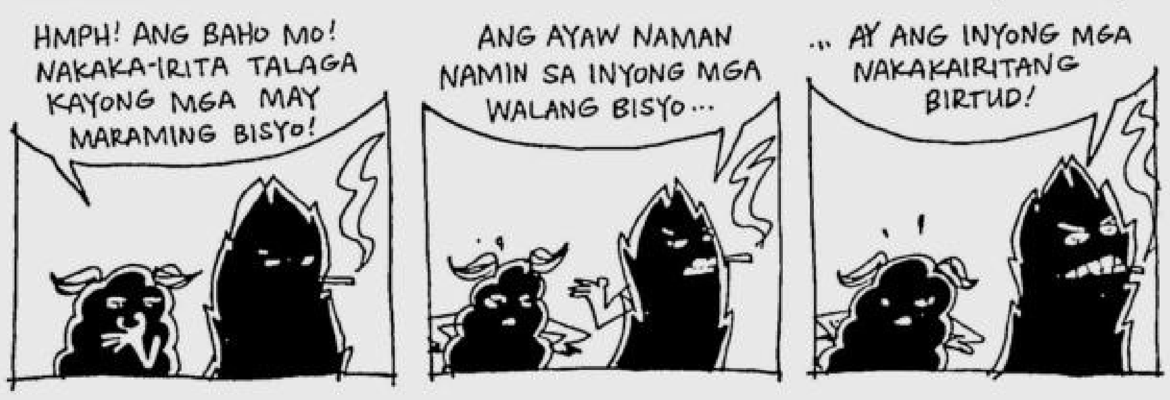
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


LET'S DO SOMETHING DIFFERENT TONIGHT...WHY DON'T YOU TELL ME A STORY FOR A CHANGE?
OKAY...ONCE UPON A TIME THERE WAS A T-REX CALLED MONTY...
...MONTY SAW ANOTHER DINOSAUR, SO HE JUMPED ON HIM! HE FIGHT WITH HIM! AAAAARGH! LIKE THAT!
UH HUH
...THEN HE BITE HIM WITH HIS BIG TEETH AND RIP HIS HEAD OFF! THEN HE ATE HIM! THERE WAS BLOOD EVERYWHERE!
THE END!
SO...NICHOLAS ASLEEP?
LIKE A LOG
I'M NOT SURE I CAN SLEEP THOUGH!

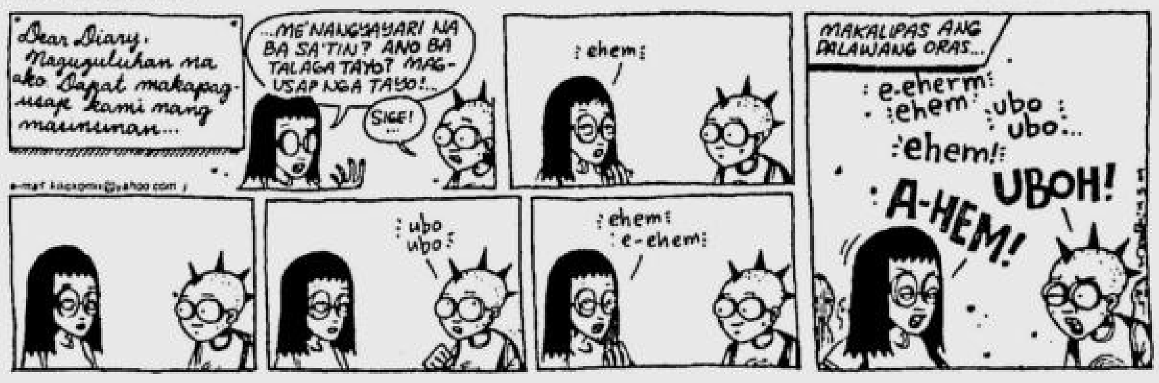
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


HMPH! ANG BAHO MO! NAKAKA-IRITA TALAGA KAYONG MGA MAY MARAMING BISYO!
ANG AYAW NAMAN NAMIN SA INYONG MGA WALANG BISYO...
... AY ANG INYONG MGA NAKAKAIRITANG BIRTUD!

KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


Dear Diary, Naguguluhan na ako. Dapat makapag-usap kami nang mauunuran...
...ME' NANGYAYARI NA BA SA'TIN? ANO BA TALAGA TAYO? MAG-USAP NGA TAYO!...
SIGE!
ehem
MAKALIPAS ANG DALAWANG ORAS...
e-eherm
ehem
ubo ubo...
ehem!
A-HEM!
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ubo ubo
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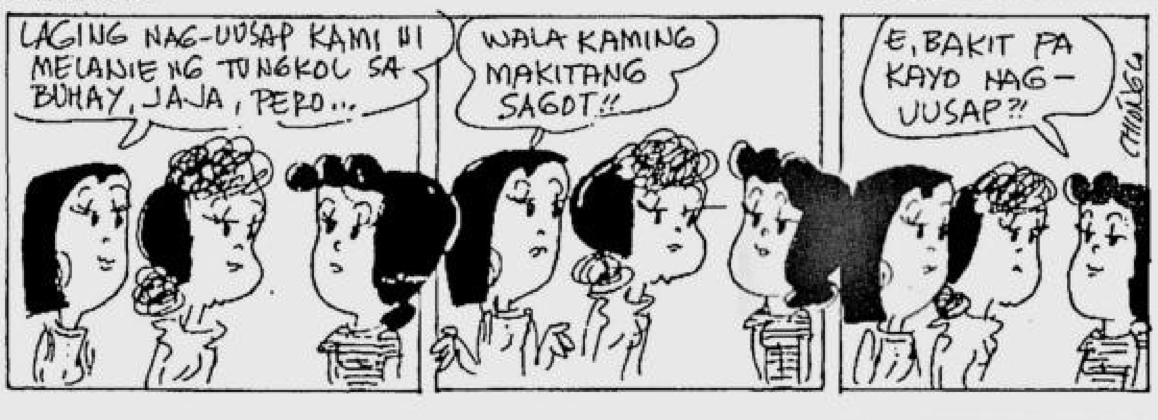
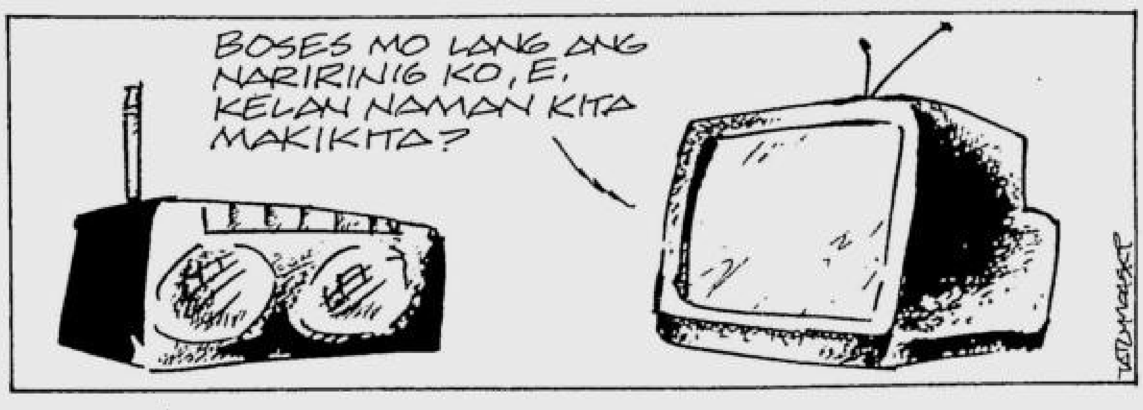
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


LAGING NAG-UUSAP KAMI NI MELANIE NG TUNGKOL SA BUHAY, JAJA, PERO...
WALA KAMING MAKITANG SAGOT!!
E, BAKIT PA KAYO NAG-UUSAP?!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


BOSES MO LANG ANG NARIRINIG KO, E. KELAN NAMAN KITA MAKIKITA?

Their new face, their Charlene

Celebrity performer, wife and mom Charlene Gonzales is the new image booster of mega store SM

CHARLENE in pink tank top worn with plaid capri pants

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DID you know that Charlene Gonzales loves to shop? What woman doesn't, right? Well, what you didn't know is that, despite the killer show-biz schedule, Charlene is a smart shopper.

"I guess we all have it in us," she confides among "us girls." "That's why I readily agreed when the SM Department Store asked me to be their image model."

As the face of the "My Store, My SM" campaign, Charlene will be highlighting SM's fashion and home sections.

This is something that comes very naturally to her as she, in fact, recalls practically growing up with SM.

"I remember going there with my family as a child to buy things we needed," she says. Today, she's come full circle not only shopping for her family, but also doing features in the store for her television show "At Home Ka Dito."

"We'd do shoots of fashion and home trends for the show at the SM Department Store," she enthuses. "That has made me even more aware of the many stylish and affordable things one can get there. That made our shoots even more fun." In fact, she takes time out during breaks to check out the merchandise.

That's why she did not think twice about accepting SM's offer. "SM has an exciting assortment of stuff for everyone," Charlene says.

More than that, "it's a one-stop shop. Everything is in one place—whether it be clothes, toys, stuff for the home. You don't have to move from one place to another—you just go one level up or down, buying CDs or toys for the kids. Like most working moms, I have a busy schedule and having everything in one place makes shopping a lot easier for me."

Another important thing is that "SM has very affordable prices. Like all women, I love bargains—and there's lots to look forward to whenever I visit the store."

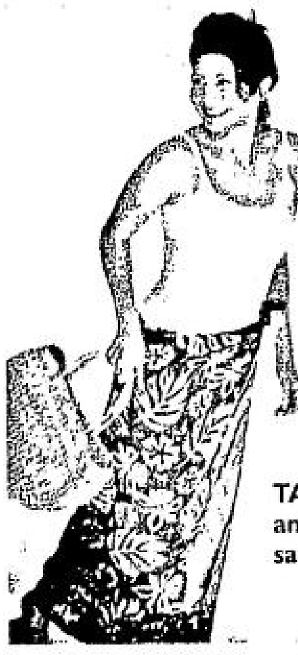
Like all women, Charlene has her shopping style.

Because of her busy schedule, "morning is the best time for me to shop. It's also less crowded and makes buying stuff easier."

She's an intuitive shopper who knows "what I want, more or less. I just go, and don't usually list my needs."

A wise shopper, she looks "for quality and how it fits before I buy. I'm not really brand-conscious." Like most moms, she wants value for her money: "That's why I continue to be amazed by SM's very reasonable prices."

BEIGE dress with blue beaded floral accents



TANK top and leaf-and-hibiscus print sarong

PHOTOS: RAYMUND ISAAC

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Payment Term	Reduced Factor Rate	Interest Rate Per Month
3 months	0.350137	1.7%
6 months	0.181550	1.5%
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12 months	0.097487	1.4%
18 months	0.072197	1.7%
24 months	0.058519	1.7%

Sample Computation
To compute for your Cash in a Flash E-Pay monthly installment, follow this formula:

Total amount to be availed x factor rate
= Cash in a Flash E-Pay Monthly Installment

Example:

Total Amount Requested		P10,000.00
Factor Rate (12 months)	x	0.097487
Cash in a Flash E-Pay Monthly Installment	=	P 974.87

Hurry, fax your E-Pay Request Form today!

Summer pampering . . .

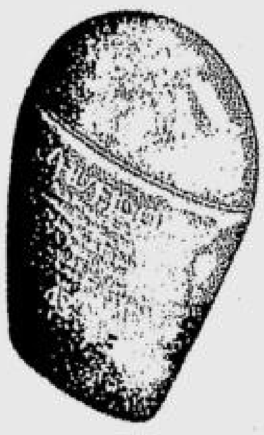
From page G1

Leg comforts

Humidity in the city makes feet and legs swell, so it becomes very uncomfortable in high heels or closed shoes.

Soothe yourself with Phytomer's leg gel, which almost instantly takes the pain away and brings down swelling by revving up blood circulation. I use this during PMS season when my feet and legs are most puffy.

L'Occitane's verbena icy body gel has the same effect (though it's only three-fourths as effective in bringing down swelling), plus it has mosquito-repellant properties.



SHISEIDO Sun Protection Liquid Foundation

Then there's **Origins Balinese Body Glow**, which smells just like orange and pineapple. It is between a cream wash and a gentle scrub. Step into the shower, then scoop some with your hand and apply on dampened skin. The papaya enzymes exfoliate, while tiny coconut shells polish rough spots.

When you rinse off, the soy flour nourishes, softens and smoothens your skin, leaving you soft. Any mom will feel like she just came from an exotic resort spa.

PHYTOMER Soothing Leg Gel

E-mail the author at kinnysalas@yahoo.com

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